

STRANGE TRADES AND PROFESSIONS.

By STANLEY CATCHPOL.

IX.—FLAT CATCHERS.

The flat, invariably, is a straightforward, honest man or woman, who is so just with people and in his or her deeds that "to have" him or her—for that is the expression generally used—is not so very difficult.

The "Catcher" usually comes from the East-end, and never attempts to catch a flat in his own district; not that his conscience would trouble him much, but somehow the East-endians are not after caught napping; therefore it is necessary for him to migrate, always in pairs, to other parts.

A worthy couple have their way to London E.idge, over which they pass, their intention being to work a part of the south of the metropolis.

One is about 30, and has the appearance of a respectable working man; his companion, a lad of 16, is the owner of small twinkling black eyes. A first glance one would have said, "What bright laughing eyes that boy possesses," but upon closer examination the twinkle is that of self-conceit and crafty cunning.

The man carried what appeared a long cardboard box, covered with brown paper, though the diamond-cut holes at the top looked rather odd.

There was nothing about them to attract a second glance, not even when they turned down a narrow street leading out of the Borough-road and stopped at a frontless shop, where barrows of all descriptions were exposed for sale or hire.

This shop they entered, remaining lost to view for ten minutes. When they reappeared a marked change had come over them. Both were now dressed in faded grey suits, smudged here and there with flour and dry dough. The man pushed a baker's barrow, on each side of which was written, in yellow letters, "F. Catcher, Baker." On one handle swung a basket, in which were a few loaves. The boy walked by the side, and along loaves, they went, whistling and chatting merrily, until Champion Hill was reached.

The boy now took the lead, for upon his ingenious mind depended the profits of the day. "Go on, Bill," said he, addressing the man. "It's good enough to start here; she'll do," nodding in the direction whence a well-dressed young woman was coming, having in her charge two children, a boy and girl, aged 8 and 5.

The person in charge, as "Bill" raised a little the lid of the barrow, fumbling for a minute or so inside, he handed his confederate a small paper bag, such as confectioners use to put a couple of buns in. The boy had already shouldered the basket containing the loaves, and taking the bag from the man's hand he proceeded to meet the trio coming towards him. We just within two steps of them, he innocently exclaimed:

"Oh, miss, I've caught such a beautiful canary, and I've been to lots of the houses about here to inquire if they have lost one, and no person claims it, and as I can't take it with me on my rounds—also being a pity to let the poor little thing go again—would you like to buy it? And it has been singing so beautifully!"

While he had been speaking the rascally young dog had opened the paper and held before three pairs of admiring eyes a bright yellow bird, which began to chirrup, either from delight at seeing the light of day or from pressure. The children at once went into ecstasy, and, clapping their hands, exclaimed joyously:

"Nurse! oh, dear good nurse, do buy it. Mamma, I'm sure, will give you the money again."

The children pleading, the seller urging in pity for the dear little thing, the woman's heart also longing to be the possessor of a pretty singing bird, may be to hang in her own room, the nurse opens her purse. A half-crown changes owners, and along they go, the children begging, with almost tears in their eyes, to be permitted to carry it, if only for a minute.

Satisfied with their first catch, the baker and his boy pass on some distance until they meet another flat.

From the children, Mrs. Cooke, or Miss Partridge, by chance happen to be looking from a window, the young catcher hesitates not for a moment to pass through the gate straight to the house, and, with the coolest effrontery, demands, in a half-stupor, half-pleading tone, whether they have lost a bird. Receiving an answer in the negative, he begs of them to become a purchaser, and one out of every five or six whom he assails buys.

Taking into consideration the stock in the barrow at the time of starting numbers somewhere from twenty to thirty, and as he never sells one for less than a shilling, and frequently gets as much as five, they may fairly be put down at half a crown each.

Under the clever manipulation of the man, the common yellow-hammer, retailed at fourpence each, is made to resemble our sweet pale golden songsters. It is in his work before he leaves his home in the East to touch up with paint and brush those parts by which even an ordinary person, possessing never so slight a knowledge, would soon be able to detect, but having passed into the trickster's hands it requires a fancier to expose the fraud.

When these birds are not obtainable, the man and boy turn to another mode of catching flats. The youngest is dressed as a boy, and has the appearance of an oil-shop messenger or a paperhanger or plasterer's boy. This time his catches consist principally of young men, of well-to-do parents, who possess more money than wit.

"Please, sir, is this good?" he says, holding in his hand what the intended victim believes is a diamond ring, marked 18-carat.

The well-dressed young gent of twenty, who knows more about lodgers or football than diamonds and gold, of course takes the ring from the crumby hand of the workman's son. Then examining it, he pronounces in an assured tone, as if he was one of the finest connoisseurs extant:

"Yes, it is a diamond; where did you get it?" The Catcher smiles, and, "I have just picked it up; would you like to buy it?"

The vendor watches the deal with a knowing twinkle in his eye as it is tried upon the dandy's finger, who, holding it out, thinks how well it looks upon his clean, white hand, and inwardly resolves to speculate. He is an honest young fellow as far as the world goes; that is, he would not rob his employer or be guilty of committing a theft. He is not buying stolen property; he is simply becoming a purchaser of a lost article which may never have a claimant. So the knowing one, who plumes himself on the belief that he knows a vast deal more than the poor-clad lad before him, parts with ten shillings or a sovereign and exultingly proceeds on his way to the City to exhibit his purchase to his fellow-workers at the desk, and does not discover that he has been duped until he has heard the opinion of a bonafide jeweller.

Spurious diamond rings are not the only things which are manufactured solely for the flat-catcher to dispose of. He has highly finished-off scarf-pins containing a small piece of round glass through which one only needs to look to see a picture of a very objectionable character; sham meerschaum pipes, imitation amber cigar-holders, base spade guineas, and scores of other articles which the intelligent, though wealthy, City young gent is persuaded into buying.

Another simple method of obtaining sums of money, varying from a shilling to ten, is practised on the pockets of the unwary. Simple as the following may appear, it is astonishing how easily the public bite.

The bitten party unknown is subjected to a close scrutiny before he is accosted, and that nearly always under these conditions—

A man is proceeding along the road; suddenly his shoulder is tapped, and a boy, holding a purse in his hand, says eagerly:

"You have dropped your purse, sir" at the same moment opening it and disclosing two or three gold coins within the interior. There is no

one near, and the party addressed, knowing it is not his, lays claim to it at once, and forthwith puts it in his pocket and would hurry on, anxious to get away, with a "Thank you, my boy." But the boy is not so easily shaken off. He claims a reward for his honesty, and to get rid of him the man will tender a few shillings. As who would not for as many pounds? No sooner the Flat Catcher has the silver between his fingers than he is off like a shot down a turning and lost, leaving the party fazed to find out at his leisure that he has bought three gilt card-counters or other counterfeit money.

Only as recently as December 21st, 1889, a workman was accosted in the vicinity of the Tower by a—To all appearance—old salt, who enticed him to buy two bottles of smuggled Jamaica rum. The man had a pull from each bottle to test its quality. He smacked his lips, no doubt liking the flavour, and parted with three shillings, and, as may be expected, went home full of glee in being able to entertain his friends. Picture his disappointment and, no doubt, rage when he discovered he had bought two bottles of tinned water, the bottles having been filled up to the neck with tasteless liquid, then a thin layer of wax poured in, upon the top of which was a thimbleful of the good old grog, causing water to come into his eyes. Whether the discovery was made before his friends assembled I have not been able to ascertain.

"Fools and their money are soon parted" is such a good old adage that a repetition is quite within its proper sphere here. A barrister, whose name is as well known to the public as Lord Salisbury's or Mr. Gladstone's was one day in conversation with a fellow-wig, each having a clerk a few steps in the rear carrying their briefs. Suddenly a total stranger, with a blue bag, touched his shoulder, and drew him two steps away, and then whispered in his ear that he had a couple of sovereigns to lend him to return to his office in Lincoln's Inn. Without a moment's thought the learned gentleman, who was supposed to be up to every move on the board, handed the man his purse. The fellow at once entered the courts and was never seen more, nor was the barrister's money.

Until recently there was a gang of men who used to play upon young publicans, their process of working upon their fears being very easy. It is a well-known fact up to a year or so ago every ninety out of a hundred licensed victuallers made it a practice to add sweetening to their cheap beer, thereby rendering it much more palatable, but at the same time placing them under the Adulteration Act, though for a long time they went on unmolested except by the class of men which I am going to mention.

The first object was to discover when the master himself was in the shop, then in would come two men and ask for a pint of ale. To the great astonishment and trepidation of Mr. Boniface, instead of drinking it, one would bring forth two phials from his pocket, and filling them both, present one to the man who had served them, saying, "There is a sample for you; the other we shall take away and hand it over to the proper authorities; if all is right you have nothing to fear." The publican knew all was not right, perhaps was summoned, but his house would lose its reputation and business fall off. These men knew that, so their duty, to save himself, would ask the accomplices, under the impression that they were excise officers, to step round to a side bar, and, with quaking voice, demand of them whether they could not settle the little affair between themselves as he did not want to get into trouble. "You are a sovereign or two to pay us to leave you alone," After humming and hawing a great deal, and looking at each other as if to penetrate one another's thoughts, they would take the money, give up the phial which had been put in one of their pockets, and, after a drink all round, including a cigar, walk quietly out of the house with a piece of gold or two. Ask any man who retails beer and spirits if he has ever been caught this way, and his answer will be "No." Very few will acknowledge that they have been a victim to the Flat Catcher. Now that publicans sell more genuine malt, these kind of Flat Catchers have fallen into abeyance and turn their wit into another channel, for when once man begins to exist by his wits—or I may say by trickery—depend upon it the old honest, steady, plodding path is never sought again.

EXTRAORDINARY ASSAULT CASE.
At the West London Police Court, Thomas Kelly, 52, described as a coffee-house keeper, Uxbridge-road, Shepherd's Bush, surrendered to his bail to answer the charge of committing a murderous assault upon William Nicholas, coach clerk, residing at 19, Shepherd's Bush Green. The case had been before the court for nearly two months in consequence of the complainant being in the West London Hospital suffering from the serious illness which he received. The evidence in the first instance went to show that on the morning of January 14th the complainant was found lying at the door of the coffee-house in a pool of blood. The accused, who was inside with a stick, stated to a constable that he found the man with his wife, and he knocked him down. The prisoner's wife also preferred a charge against him of striking her on the head with a stick, but she did not appear.

The injured man was removed to the West London Hospital and the prisoner was arrested, being remanded from week to week for the attendance of the complainant, and finding bail only at the last examination. The complainant, an elderly man, was carried into court, and placed on a chair, from which he gave evidence. He deposed that between ten and eleven o'clock on the morning of January 14th he went to Kelly's for a cup of coffee. He got into conversation with some people, and afterwards went upstairs. He saw two rooms, one with a bed in it and the other empty. He went into the empty room, the door being wide open, to lie down. He had been drinking whisky over night, and felt ill. Witnesses did not see any one in the room. He dozed off to sleep, and he next remembered seeing the prisoner standing over him, bearing down upon him with a stick, and he did not know what he was doing. He said, "What are you doing here?" Witness answered, "If you will allow me to get up, I will explain how I came here." He tried to rise, when the accused struck him several times, breaking his little finger, fracturing his elbow, and beating him unmercifully about the head with a thick stick. He was then thrown downstairs, and his leg was broken. In cross-examination, the complainant said he did not know the prisoner or his wife, or did not see her in the room. Other evidence having been given, the accused made a statement to the effect that he had been in Soho Hospital for five weeks in question in consequence of receiving a letter stating that his wife was ill. On entering he found the place in confusion, and went upstairs. He first came to his own private room, and then to the door, and saw two beds on the floor, and the complainant lying by the side of his wife. He said, "You villain, what are you doing here with my wife?" and struck him several times, but he could not say how many, as he was excited. He denied throwing the complainant downstairs. A witness for the defence having been called, Mr. Plowden committed the prisoner for trial, and accepted bail for his appearance at the sessions.

INFLUENZA AND WILL MAKING.
The recent epidemic has had a considerable effect on the minds of that large class of persons who are prone to put off the making of their wills. Ever since the epidemic set in there has been a steady increase in the number of such documents deposited for safe custody in the hands of the registrars of the Probate Court at Somerset House. In the last month alone, though it numbered only twenty-eight days, there have been 1,633 wills were formally consigned to the registrar's "iron-proof rooms." Ordinarily the annual number deposited is not much over 12,000, and these are, of course, a very small proportion of the wills actually made, the ordinary course with testators being to retain their wills in their own hands or in those of their solicitors.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Though every care will be taken to ensure the accuracy of the editor cannot accept any responsibility for accidental errors. Questions requiring to be answered the same week must reach the office by Wednesday morning at latest. Those subsequently received will be answered the following week. Replies to correspondents must be marked, the names being either specified or left to the editor to fix. All questions should be headed "Legal," "Household," "Financial," or "Miscellaneous," in order to facilitate classification.

LEGAL.

M. R.—As you have practically received no notice of the sale, it is not your business to give notice to A, and pay rent to him alone.

E. H. W.—If the property is freehold, it falls to the heir-at-law; if personal, it falls to the next of kin. You make a false statement about your age, and that would involve punishment.

M. Y.—It holds good. 2. No. 3. No. 4. No. 5. No. 6. No. 7. No. 8. No. 9. No. 10. No. 11. No. 12. No. 13. No. 14. No. 15. No. 16. No. 17. No. 18. No. 19. No. 20. No. 21. No. 22. No. 23. No. 24. No. 25. No. 26. No. 27. No. 28. No. 29. No. 30. No. 31. No. 32. No. 33. No. 34. No. 35. No. 36. No. 37. No. 38. No. 39. No. 40. No. 41. No. 42. No. 43. No. 44. No. 45. No. 46. No. 47. No. 48. No. 49. No. 50. No. 51. No. 52. No. 53. No. 54. No. 55. No. 56. No. 57. No. 58. No. 59. No. 60. No. 61. No. 62. No. 63. No. 64. No. 65. No. 66. No. 67. No. 68. No. 69. No. 70. No. 71. No. 72. No. 73. No. 74. No. 75. No. 76. No. 77. No. 78. No. 79. No. 80. No. 81. No. 82. No. 83. No. 84. No. 85. No. 86. No. 87. No. 88. No. 89. No. 90. No. 91. No. 92. No. 93. No. 94. No. 95. No. 96. No. 97. No. 98. No. 99. No. 100. No. 101. No. 102. No. 103. No. 104. No. 105. No. 106. No. 107. No. 108. No. 109. No. 110. No. 111. No. 112. No. 113. No. 114. No. 115. No. 116. No. 117. No. 118. No. 119. No. 120. No. 121. No. 122. 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THE FIRM
OF GIRDLESTONE.A ROMANCE OF THE
UNROMANTIC.

BY A. CONAN DOYLE.

AUTHOR OF "MICHAEL CLARKE," "A STUDY IN
SCARLET," ETC.

CHAPTER XII.

THE CLOUDS GROW DARKER.

When Kate had made a clean breast of all her troubles to the widow Scully, and had secured that good woman's co-operation, a great weight seemed to have been lifted from her heart, and she sprang from the shed a different woman. It would soon be like a dream, all these dreary weeks in the grim old house. Within a day she was sure that either Tom or the major would find means of communicating with her. The thought made her happy, and she sang for very lightness of heart as she made her way back to the Priory.

Mrs. Jorrocks and Rebecca observed the change which had come over her, and marvelled at it. Kate attempted to aid the former in her household work, but the old crone refused her assistance and repulsed her harshly. Her maid, too, answered her curtly when she addressed her, and eyed her in anything but a friendly manner.

"You don't seem much the worse," she remarked, "for all the wonderful things you see in the night."

"Oh, don't speak of it," said Kate. "I am afraid that I have given you a great fright. I was feeling far from well, and I suppose that I must have imagined all about that dreadful monk. Yet at the time I assure you that I saw it as plainly as I see you now."

"What's that she says?" asked Mrs. Jorrocks, with her hand to her ear.

"She says that she saw a ghost last night as plain as she sees you now."

"Pack 'o' nonsense!" cried the old woman, rattling the poker in the grate. "I've been here afore she came—all alone in the house, too—and I haven't seen nothing of the sort. When she's got nothing else to grumble about she pretends as she has seen a ghost."

"No, no," the girl said cheerily. "I am not grumbling, indeed I am not."

"It's like her contrivance to say so," old Mrs. Jorrocks cried hoarsely. "She's always a-contrivin'."

"You're not in a good temper to-day," Kate remarked, and went off to her room, going up the steps two at a time with her old springy footstep.

Rebecca followed her, and noting the change, interpreted it in her own narrow fashion.

"You seem cheerful enough now," she said, standing at Kate's door, and looking into her room, with a bitter smile on her lips. "To-morrow is Saturday. That's what's the matter with you."

"To-morrow Saturday?" Kate repeated in astonishment.

"Yes, you know what I mean well enough. It's no use pretending that you don't." The girl's manner was so aggressive that Kate was astonished.

"I haven't the least idea of what you mean," she cried, with her arms akimbo and a sneer on her face. "She doesn't know what I mean. She doesn't know that her young man is coming down on the Saturday. She does not know that Mr. Ezra comes all the way from London on that day just for to see her. It isn't that that makes you cheerful, is it? Oh, you double-faced!"

The girl's pretty features were all distorted with malice as she spoke, and her two hands were clenched passionately.

"Rebecca!" cried Kate, energetically. "I really think that you are the most complete fool that ever met in my life. I will trouble you to remember that I am your mistress and you are my servant. How dare you speak to me in such a way? Leave my room this instant!"

The girl stood her ground as though she intended to brazen it out, but Kate swept towards her with so much honest anger in her voice, and such natural dignity in her bearing, that she sank her bold gaze, and with a few muttered words, slunk away into her own room. Kate closed the door behind her, and then her sense of the ludicrous, overpowering her anger, she laughed for the first time since she had been in the Priory. It was so intensely ridiculous that even the most foolish of mortals should imagine that she could, under any circumstances, be desirous of seeing Ezra Girdlestone. The very thought of him brought her amusement to an end, for the maid waited and to-morrow would bring him down once more. Perhaps her friends might arrive before he did. God grant it!

It was a cold but a bright day. From her window she could see the snow-white sails of the Hampshire fishing boats dipping and rising against the deep blue sky. A single barge rode like a swan among the ducklings, beating up against the wind for Portsmouth or Southampton. Away on the right was the long line of white foam which marked the Winner Sands. The tide was in, and the great mudbanks had disappeared, save that here and there their dun-coloured convexity rose above the surface like the back of a sleeping leviathan. Overhead a great flock of wild geese were flapping their way southward, like a broad arrow against the sky. It was an exhilarating, bracing scene, and she felt so full of life and hope that she could hardly believe that she was the same girl who that very morning had hurled away the poison bottle, knowing in her heart that unless she destroyed it she might be tempted to follow her guardian's sinister suggestions. Yet the incident was real enough, for there were the fragments of glass scattered over the bare planks of her floor, and the insidious odour of the drug was still so strong that she opened the window in order to dissipate it. Looking back at it now, it all seemed like some hideous nightmare.

She had no very clear idea as to what she expected her friends to do. That she would be saved, and that speedily, she never for one instant doubted. She had only to wait patiently and all would be well. By to-morrow night, at the latest, her troubles would be over.

So thought Girdlestone, too, as he sat down below, with his head bent upon his breast and his eyes looking moodily from under his shaggy brows at the glowing coals. To-morrow evening Burt and Ezra would be down by five o'clock, and that would be the beginning of the end. As to Burt's future, there was no difficulty about that. He was a broken man. If well supplied with unlimited liquor he would not live long to trouble them. He had nothing to gain and everything to lose by denouncing them. Should the worst come to the worst, the ravings of a dipsomaniac could do little harm to a man as respected as the African merchant. Every event had been foreseen and provided for by the old schemer. Above all, he had devised a method by which even a coroner's inquiry could be faced with impunity, and which would do away with all necessity for elaborate concealment.

He beckoned Mrs. Jorrocks over to him, for he had been sitting in the large room, which was used both as a dining-room and as a kitchen.

"What is the latest train to-morrow?" he asked.

"There be one that reaches Bedworth at a quarter to ten."

"That's regular that I could set my clock by it."

"That'll do. Where is Miss Harston?"

"Upstairs, sir. She came back a-laughin' and a-jumpin' and as easy as you please to them as was old before she was born."

"Laughin'!" said Girdlestone, raising his eyebrows. "She did not seem in a laughing mood this morning. You don't think she has gone out of her mind, do you?"

"I don't know about that. There was Rebecca came down here a-cryin' 'cause she'd ordered her out of her room. Oh, she's mistress."

of the house—there's no doubt about that. She'll be a-givin' of us all the sack presently."

Girdlestone relapsed into silence, but his face showed that he was puzzled by what he had heard. Kate slept a sound and dreamless sleep that night. At her age trouble is shaken from the young mind like water from the feathers of a duck. It had been all very gloomy and terrible while it lasted, but now the dawn of better days had come. She woke cheerful and light-hearted. She felt that when once she was free she could forgive her guardian and Rebecca and all of them—even Ezra. She would bury the whole hideous incident, and never think of it or refer to it again.

She amused herself that morning by reckoning up in her mind what the sequence of events would be in London, and how long it would be before she heard from her friends. If Mrs. Scully had telegraphed, news would have reached them last night. Probably she would write as well, giving all the particulars about her. The post came in about nine o'clock, she thought. The same time would elapse before the major could find Tom. After that, no doubt they would have to consider what had best be done, and perhaps would go and consult with Dr. Dimsdale. That would occupy the morning and part of the afternoon. They could hardly reach the Priory before nightfall.

Ezra would be down by that time. On the Saturday before he had arrived between five and six. A great dread filled her soul at the thought of meeting the young merchant again. It was merely the natural instinct of a lady shrinking from whatever is rough and coarse and antagonistic. She had no conception of the impending danger, or of what his coming might mean to her.

Mr. Girdlestone was more gracious to her than usual that morning at breakfast. He seemed anxious to efface the remembrance of his fierce and threatening words the day before. Rebecca, who waited upon them, was astonished to hear the way in which he spoke. His whole manner was less heavy and ungainly than usual, for now that the time for action was at hand, he felt braced and invigorated, as energetic men do.

"You should study botany while you are down here," he said, blandly. "Depend upon it, one cannot learn too many things in one's youth. Besides, a knowledge of natural science teaches us the marvellous harmony which prevails throughout the universe, and so enlarges our minds."

"I should very much like to know something of it," answered Kate. "My only fear is that I should not be clever enough to learn it."

"The wood here is full of wonders. The tiniest mushroom is as extraordinary and as worthy of study as the great oak. Your father was fond of plants and animals."

"Yes, I can remember that," said Kate, her face glowing and as her mind travelled back to years gone by. What would that same father have thought, she wondered, had he known how this man opposite to her had treated her. What did it matter now though, when she would so soon be out of his power!

"I remember," said Girdlestone, stirring his tea thoughtfully, "when we lived in the City 'prentice laid together, we shared a room above the shop. He used to have a dormouse that he was very fond of. All his leisure time was spent in nursing the creature and cleaning its cage. It seemed to be his only pleasure in life. One night it was running across the floor, and I put my foot upon it."

"Oh, poor papa!" cried Kate.

"I did it upon principle. 'You have devoted too much time to the creature,' I said. 'Raise up your thoughts higher!' He was grieved and angry, but in time he came to thank me. It was a useful lesson."

Kate was so startled by this anecdote that she remained silent for some little time. "How old were you then?" she asked at last.

"I was about 16."

"Then you were always—inclined that way?" She found some difficulty in conveying her meaning in polite tones.

"Yes, I received a call when I was very young. I became one of the elect at an early age."

"And which are the elect?" his ward asked, demurely.

"The members of the Community of the Primitive Trinitarians—or, at least those of them who frequent Purbrook-street Chapel. I hold that the ministers in the other chapels that I have attended do not preach the unadulterated word, and have therefore missed the narrow path."

"Then," said Kate, "you think that no one will be saved except those who frequent the Purbrook-street Chapel?"

"And not all of them—no, nor one in ten," the merchant said confidently, and with some approach to satisfaction.

"Heaven must be a very small place," Kate remarked, as she rose from the table.

"Are you going out?"

"I was thinking of having a stroll in the wood."

"Think over a text as you walk. It is an excellent commencement of the day."

"What text should I think of?" she asked, standing smiling in the doorway, with the bright sunshine bursting in behind her.

"In the midst of life we are in death," he said, solemnly. His voice was so hollow and stern that it struck a chill into the girl's heart. The effect was only momentary, however. The day was so fine and the breeze so fresh, that sadness was out of the question. On this, of all mornings, she should be free from vague presentiments and dim forebodings. The change in her guardian's manner was an additional cause for cheerfulness. She almost persuaded herself that she had misconstrued his words and his intentions upon the preceding day.

She went down the avenue and had a few words with the sentry there. She felt no bitterness against him now—on the contrary, she could afford to laugh at his peculiarities. He was in a very bad humour on account of some domestic difficulties. His wife had been abusing him, and had even been assaulting him. "She used to argue first and then fetch the poker," he said ruefully, "but now it's the poker first and there ain't no argument at all!"

Kate looked at his savage face and burly figure, and thought what a very courageous woman his wife must be.

"It's all 'cause the fisher lasses won't lemme alone," he explained with a leer. "She don't like it, knock me sideways if she do! It ain't my fault though. If allers had a kind o' a fetchin' way w' me!"

"Yes, you post my note?" asked Kate.

"Yes; in course I did," he answered. "It'll be in Lunnun now, most like." His one eye moved about in such a very shifty way as he spoke that she was convinced that he was telling a lie. She could not be sufficiently thankful that she had something else to rely upon besides the old scoundrel's assurances.

There was nothing to be seen down the lane except a single cart with a loutish young man walking at the horse's head. She had a horror of the country folk since her encounter with the two bumpkins upon the Sunday. She therefore slipped away from the gate, and went through the wood to the shed, which she mounted. On the other side of the wall there was standing a little boy in buttons, so rigid and motionless that he might have been one of Madame Tenebris's figures, were it not for his eyes, which were rolling about in every direction, and which finally fixed themselves on Kate's face.

"Good mornin', miss," said this apparition.

"Good mornin'," she answered. "I think I saw you with Mrs. Scully yesterday?"

"Yes, miss. Missus, she told me to wait here and never to move until I seed you. She said as you would be sure to come. I've been waitin' here for nigh on an hour."

"Your mistress is an angel," Kate said enthusiastically, "and you are a very good little boy."

"I adeed, you hit it about the missus," said the youth, in a hoarse whisper, nodding his head to emphasize his remarks. She's got a heart as is big enough for three."

Kate could not help smiling at the enthusiasm with which the little fellow spoke.

"You seem fond of her," she said.

"I'd be a bad 'un if I wasn't. She too me loved Ezra. He was looking very nervous and

out of the work—as without character or nothing, and now she's a-educatin' of me. She sent me 'ere with a message."

"What was it?"

"She said as how she had written instead o' electro-telegraphin', 'cause she had so much to say she couldn't fit it all on a telegraph."

"I thought that would be so," Kate said.

"She wrote to Mr. Major—him as is a fol-lerin' of her. She said as she had no doubt as he'd be down to-day, and you was to keep up your sports and let her know by me if any one was a-waxin' you."

"No, no. Not at all," Kate answered, smiling again. "You can tell her that my guardian has been much kinder to-day. I am full of hope now. Give her my warmest thanks for her kindness."

"All right, miss. Say that chap at the kate hasn't been giving you no cheek has he—him with the game eye?"

"No, no, John."

John looked at her suspiciously. "If he hasn't it's all right," he said, "but I think as you're one of them as don't complain if you can 'elp it." He opened his hand and showed a great jagged flint which he carried. "I'd ha' knocked his other peeper out with this," he said, "blowed if I wouldn't!"

"Don't do anything of the sort, John, but run home like a good little boy."

"All right, miss. Good-bye to ye!"

Kate watched him stroll down the lane. He passed at the bottom as if irresolute, and then she was relieved to see him throw the stone over into a turnip field, and walk rapidly off in the opposite direction to the Priory gates.

CHAPTER XLII.

THE THREE FACES AT THE WINDOW.

Late in the afternoon Ezra arrived at the Priory. From one of the passage windows Kate saw him driving up the avenue in a high dogcart. There was a broad-shouldered, red-bearded man sitting beside him, and the other from the Flying Bull was perched behind. Kate had rushed to the window on hearing the sound of wheels, with some dim expectation that her friends had come sooner than she anticipated. A glance, however, showed her that the hope was vain. From behind a curtain she watched them alight and come into the house, while the trap wheeled round and rattled off for Bedworth again.

She went slowly back to her room, wondering what friend this could be whom Ezra had brought with him. She had noticed that he was roughly clad, presenting a contrast to the young merchant, who was vulgarly spruce in his attire. Evidently they had led the trap go back to the village. Since she was glad that he had come, for his presence would act as a restraint upon the Girdlestons. In spite of her guardian's amiability at breakfast, she could not forget the words which he had used the morning before or the incident of the poison bottle. She was as convinced as ever that he meant mischief to her, but she had ceased to fear him. It never for one moment occurred to her that her guardian's machinations might come to a head before her rescuers could arrive.

As the long afternoon stole away she became more and more impatient and expectant. She had been sewing in her room, but she found that she could no longer keep her attention on the stitches. She paced nervously up and down the little apartment. In the room beneath she could hear the dull muffled sound of men's voices in a long continuous monotone, broken only by the interposition now and again of one voice which was so deep and loud that it reminded her of the growl of a beast of prey. This must belong to the red-bearded stranger. Kate wondered what it redressed stranger. Kate wondered what it redressed stranger. Kate wondered what it redressed stranger.

City affairs, no doubt, or other business matters of importance. She remembered having once heard it remarked that many of the richest men on 'Change were eccentric and slovenly in their dress, so the new-comer might be a more important person than he seemed.

She had determined to remain in her room all the afternoon to avoid Ezra, but her restlessness was so great that she felt feverish and hot. The fresh air, she thought, would have a reviving effect upon her. She slipped down the staircase, treating as lightly as possible not to disturb the gentlemen in the refectory. They appeared to hear her, however, for the hum of conversation died away, and there was a dead silence until after she had passed.

She went out on to the little lawn which lay in front of the old house. There were some flower beds scattered about on it, but they were overgrown with weeds and in the last stage of neglect. She amused herself by attempting to improve the condition of one of them, and kneeling down beside it she pulled up a number of the weeds which it contained. There was a withered rose bush in the centre, so she pulled up that also, and succeeded in imparting some degree of order among the few plants which remained. She worked with unnatural energy, pausing every now and again to glance down the dark avenue, or to listen intently to any chance sound which might catch her ear.

In the course of her work she chanced to look up at the Priory. The refectory, faced by the lawn, and at the window of which stood the three men looking their heads, as though they were pointing out to the third man, who stood between them. He was looking at her with an expression of interest. Kate thought as she returned his gaze that she had never seen a more savage and brutal face. He was flushed and laughing, while Ezra beside him appeared to be pale and anxious. They all, when they saw that she noticed them, stopped precipitately back from the window. She had only a momentary glance at them, and yet the three faces—the strange, fierce red one, and the two familiar pale ones which flanked it—remained vividly impressed upon her memory.

Girdlestone had been so pleased at the early appearance of his two allies, and the prospect of settling the matter once for all, that he received them with a cordiality foreign to his nature.

"Always punctual, my dear son, and always to be relied upon," he said. "You are a model to our young business men. As to you, Mr. Burt, he continued, grasping the navy's horny hand, 'I am delighted to see you at the Priory, much as I regret the sad necessity which has brought you down.'

"Talk it over afterwards," said Ezra shortly. "Burt and I have had no luncheon yet."

"I am cursed near starved," the other growled, throwing himself into a chair. Ezra had been careful to keep him from drink on the way down, and he was now sober, or as nearly sober as a brain saturated with liquor could ever be.

Girdlestone called for Mrs. Jorrocks, who laid the cloth and put a piece of cold corned beef and a jug of beer upon the table. Ezra appeared to have a poor appetite, but Burt ate voraciously, and filled his glass again and again from the jug. When the meal was finished and the ale all consumed, he rose with a grunt of repletion, and, pulling a roll of black tobacco from his pocket, proceeded to cut it into slices and to cram it into his pipe. Ezra drew a chair up to the fire, and his father did the same, after ordering the old woman out of the room, and closing the door behind her.

"You have spoken to our friend here about the business?" Girdlestone asked, nodding his head in the direction of Burt.

"Yes, I have made it all clear."

"Five hundred pounds down, and a free passage to Africa," said Burt.

"An energetic man like you can do a great deal in the colonies with five hundred pounds," Girdlestone remarked.

"What I do with it is nothin' to you, guv'nor," Burt remarked surlily. "I do the job, you pay me, and there's an end as far as you are concerned."

"Quite so," the merchant said in a conciliatory voice. "You are free to do what you like with the money."

"Without axin' your leave," growled Burt. He was a man of such a turbulent and quarrelsome disposition that he was always ready to go out of his way to make himself disagreeable.

"The question is how it is to be done, inter-estedly," said Girdlestone.

"Certainly not!" Girdlestone answered. "It is not necessary, Mr. Burt, can do his part of the business out of doors. We can entice her out upon some excuse. There is no reason why any one should have a suspicion of the truth."

"But they know that she did it on purpose. The secret will be looked up in our three breasts. After one night's work our friend here goes to the colonies a prosperous man, and the firm of Girdlestone holds up its head once more, stainless and irreproachable."

"Speak low!" said Ezra, in a whisper. "I hear her coming downstairs." They listened to her light springy footstep as it passed the door. "Come here, Burt," he said, after a pause. She is at work on the lawn. Come and have a look at her."

"They all went over to the window, and looked out. It was then that Kate, glancing up, saw the three cruel faces surveying her.

"She's a rare well-built 'un," said Burt, as he stepped back from the window. "It is the ugliest job as ever I was on."

"But we can rely upon you?" Girdlestone asked, looking at him with puckered eyes.

"You bet—as long as you pay me," the navy answered phlegmatically, and went back to his pipe and to Mrs. Jorrocks's bottle of Hollands.

(To be continued.)

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(To be continued.)

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is not necessary. Mr. Burt can do his part of the business out of doors. We can entice her out upon some excuse. There is no reason why any one should have a suspicion of the truth."

"But they know that she did it on purpose. The secret will be looked up in our three breasts. After one night's work our friend here goes to the colonies a prosperous man, and the firm of Girdlestone holds up its head once more, stainless and irreproachable."

"Speak low!" said Ezra, in a whisper. "I hear her coming downstairs." They listened to her light springy footstep as it passed the door. "Come here, Burt," he said, after a pause. She is at work on the lawn. Come and have a look at her."

THE M.P.

OLD IZAAK.

A correspondent, Mr. W. W. Hawksworth, writes from Alexandria, Egypt, that he has been very much interested in reading your remarks on the "People," having in my early life devoted some considerable time to the pleasure of the rod and reel. I have been a member of the London Angling Club, and have found the only fishing in the coast district worth attention is at the mouth of rivers or in the sea, where at times—when the tides are obnoxious—Rudd, and my son was frequently taken at the mouth of the Uzumkulu (a river some 25 miles south of this, where he had the good fortune to catch a strange fish, about the size of a salmon, which he sent me, and which I mean the skin, which has been preserved, say never heard of such a fish. I have photographed the fish and sent various copies to friends, and have written to you on the subject, but in vain. It has occurred

PIPER PAN.

Recent San Francisco papers have reached and speak enthusiastically of Madame Albani's impersonation of Desdemona (in Verdi's "Otello") and also of Tamagno's Otello. They speak in no less favourably of the impersonation of Iago by Signor Del Puente. I suppose he is still una-

BUCKLAND, JUNIOR.

Another interesting fact mentioned by the same correspondent, and one of which I was aware before, is that there are no reptiles in Newfoundland. This certainly is peculiar, considering its propinquity to the American continent. I do not know that there is any other country similarly circumstanced, except those, of course, in the extreme north. Ireland has no serpents but it has lizards. It is fortunate for the inhabitants that they have not got the American rattlesnake, a gentleman who lives very near them.

THE ACTOR.

Steele Mackaye, the author of "Paul Kauri," has been referred to by a Sunday contemporary as "British born." I am assured, on good authority, that he is not so, but an American. Certain it is that he was acting, and teaching acting, in New York so long ago as 1865. He played Hamlet only at the Crystal Palace, under Tom Taylor's auspices, but throughout the provinces. He

GENERAL CHATTER.

A high school girl of prodigious attainments in the art of cooking, invited by her mother to try her hand at boiling potatoes. After ascertaining, by a complicated algebraic process, how long a time should be given to the boiling, the clever one went down to the kitchen, confident that she would accomplish herself with credit. But when the potatoes were taken to table, they were so hard that the father of the family broke a front tooth on the first one. Moral: Parents who wish their girls to turn out well.

MR. WHEELER.

WOMEN IN MALE ATTIRE.

At the Thames Police Court, Matilda Stevens, and Mary Nolan, 25, charged with wearing indecent and disorderly male attire, were fined 25s each by Constable 205 H. and four o'clock that morning he was in plain clothes at Whitechapel High Street when he saw the two prisoners dressed in male attire with a man and another woman. Stevens said it was her birthday, and she and Nolan dressed in men's clothes for a joke. They did not know they were doing an offence. Mead bound each of them over to the sum of 10s to keep the peace and be of good behaviour.

WOMEN IN MALE ATTIRE.

At the Thames Police Court, Matilda Stevens, 23, and Mary Nolan, 25, were charged with having in an indecent and disorderly manner. Constable 205 H said at four o'clock that he saw them walking down Whitechapel Road. When he was in plain clothes at Whitechapel Road station he saw the two prisoners dressed in male attire with a man and another woman. Stevens said it was her birthday, and she had bought a new dress. Nolan dressed in men's clothes as a joke. "I did not know they were doing any harm," she said. The court told them to keep the peace and be of good behaviour for six months.

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have gained. To the public we leave it to do that, and we do so with satisfaction at the prospect—after much delay—of getting forward with the work of the session. Supply must, imperatively, be proceeded with, and the sooner the House can get to work on Mr. BALFOUR'S Irish Land Purchase Bill, the better for everybody concerned. Measures are many and time is short; therefore, it is with the greatest possible satisfaction that we record the fact that the debate on the report is done with.

UNIONIST ORGANISATION.

The Unionist defeat at North St. Pancras and the reduction of the Unionist majority at Stamford will not be without some compensation if they stimulate greater energy and activity in the vital matter of organisation. There is no question whatever that the former seat would have been retained—probably by a considerable majority—but for the previous neglect of registration. Were this an exceptional circumstance, it would be of little consequence. The serious matter is that there seems only too much reason to believe that many other metropolitan constituencies are in a similar condition. We could mention some where the work of organisation goes on only fitfully; others, where it can scarcely be said to go on at all. The consequence is that the majority of new electors are snapped up by the separatists, and thus when a bye-election suddenly takes place, that party stands at immeasurable disadvantage. Up to 1886 the Gladstonians had neglected the business of metropolitan registration as much as the Unionists do now. But, warned by the tremendous defeat they then suffered, they set to work with a will at improving, strengthening and systematising their electoral machinery. With that object they imported from Birmingham the famous caucus manipulator, Mr. SCHMADHORST, whose talents as an organiser are undeniable, whatever may be thought of his methods of applying them. But the Unionists unfortunately went to sleep, wrongly imagining that their electoral supremacy in London could not be overthrown, let the enemy do what he might. And so they lost the Kensington Division, and now they have lost North St. Pancras. Nor do we hesitate to say that were a general election to take place on the present register, a number of other metropolitan and provincial seats would be captured by the Separatists.

With that danger staring them in the face, it is the duty of all Unionists, the masses as well as the classes, to put their shoulders to the wheel in earnest. Let those who can afford it subscribe liberally to the funds of their local associations; let all give something. Registration cannot be effectively carried out without considerable expense, and when funds are starved, it suffers. But Unionists should not imagine that their duty ends when a subscription has been handed in. That is only a part, although a very necessary part, of their obligations. It devolves upon them to strive to make converts, to stir up the apathetic, to take personal interest in local administrative business, to make note of changes among their neighbours, to canvass systematically, especially among neutrals, and to never lose an opportunity of advancing the good cause. If meetings are held, let every Unionist make a point of putting in an appearance; if local bodies have to be elected, let politics, and nothing else, govern the Unionist vote. The Gladstonians always adhere to that rule, and the Unionists will be foolish to a degree if they ever again allow themselves to be tricked as they were over the County Council election. They have to deal with an entirely unscrupulous enemy, who does not hesitate to employ foul means when fair will not compass his objects. More life, more energy, more self-sacrifice, and more determination are the requirements of the Unionist party both in town and country. Every constituency should be in as forward a state of organisation as if a general election were imminent. For a vacancy in a borough brings into existence, so far as it is concerned, all the circumstances of a general election, and unless the Unionist machinery is in perfect working order throughout, a number of votes are sure to be lost, as was apparently the case at Stamford, where Mr. Cust polled considerably fewer than Mr. Lawrence did in 1885, although the register was larger.

It is reckoned that a sum of not less than £24,000 will be required to meet all the exigencies arising from the terrible Morfa Colliery explosion. Among the eighty-seven lives which are now stated to have been lost sixty-eight were those of married men, and their deaths leave 178 children fatherless, of whom 121 are under 13 years of age. Coming hard upon the story of the previous similar disaster at Llanerch, these details suggest the question whether it is not high time that a compulsory insurance fund be established for the benefit of colliers. Colliers, as a class, are much given to marrying, and they almost always have large families. Why, then, should not their wives and children have the benefit of a compulsory scheme of insurance? As to the necessary funds, we would suggest that they should be provided partly by the men themselves, partly by their employers, and partly, if necessary, by the State. The misery and destitution occasioned by disasters such as the two which are now fresh in the public recollection should not be left to charity for relief. The occasion is a good one; why should it not be utilised to promote such a scheme?

Elizabeth Vincent has certainly been treated with remarkable leniency by the jury who have acquitted her in the matter of the shooting of Major Isaacs. For her acquittal she may fairly thank the Lord Chief Justice, who summed up in a way which left the jury practically no choice but that of acquitting the prisoner or revolting altogether against the judicial charge. We are far from saying that Elizabeth Vincent intended to murder Major Isaacs, but how she could be considered to be not guilty of unlawfully wounding it is somewhat hard to see. When a person has a loaded pistol and uses it in what cannot easily be shown not to have been a reckless manner, that certainly looks like a criminal offence, as the law asserts that it is. Doubtless there were features in the case which tended to show that the prisoner had no criminal intention,

and she has received the full benefit of their importance. But we are bound to say that we regard the verdict in this case as a dangerous precedent, and one which is not likely to render life more secure or the reckless use of firearms less frequent.

A MIDNIGHT STEEPLECHASE. Riders in Night Shirts and Top Hats.

A midnight steeplechase took place near Melton Mowbray on Monday, which caused intense excitement in the town. It is said (the *Sportsman* states) that the idea originated from the fertile brain of Lady Augusta Fane, who is at present located at the Old Club, and the arrangements were carried out under the direction of Mr. Baldock, Mr. Brookhurst, and Major Candy. Although the utmost secrecy was observed, the news of such an unusual event of course soon spread, and before the night arrived the whole town was in a state of excitement, while at eleven o'clock carriages and all kinds of vehicles rolled into the town from every quarter. The ladies and gentlemen of the hunt turned out almost en masse, and there was also an immense gathering of foot people. A capital course had been prepared near Mr. Brookhurst's residence—nearly a mile in length—and was marked out with lamps. The competitors were Count Zbrovski, Mr. George Paget, Mr. Sydney Paget, Mr. Otto Paget, Mr. W. Chaplin, Mr. A. Burnaby, Mr. G. Wilson, Captain Rawlinson, Mr. E. Heneage, Captain Warner, and Mr. M. Neil. One of the riders wore a dress suit, with top boots and spurs and top hat, but threw off his coat before starting. The whole of the other competitors rode in starched white night shirts and top hats. It was intended to run the race by moonlight, but clouds obscured the sky and the night was very dark. The start was delayed for some time with the hope that the clouds might break, but as the light did not improve it was decided to bring off the contest in the dark. After one break away the horses went off at a good pace, Count Zbrovski being the first to take the fence. He was immediately followed by Mr. M. Neil, Mr. Burnaby, and Mr. Heneage. Three of the horses refused to jump, and three other riders were brought to the ground. Mr. M. Neil quickly assumed the lead, and went right away, but getting near the course he lost a leg and the first then taken by Count Zbrovski. The latter, however, mistook a light held by a man for the lamp on the last fence, and having to abruptly turn, he just managed to lose his position. Mr. A. Burnaby taking the winning fence a neck in front. Count Zbrovski came a cropper over the finishing "bullfinch," and would undoubtedly have been seriously hurt had not some promptly seized his horse's bridle. Mr. M. Neil came in a good third, notwithstanding that he had gone so far out of his correct course. Only five finished, and three horses were running about with empty seats. The prize was a silver cup, value £50, and was competed for by some of the very best horses in the crack shires. Though there were so many falls, no one was hurt, with the exception of Mr. Wilson, whose face was badly cut with a horse's hoof.

DOM PEDRO AND THE HOSPITAL.

Dr. Stellwag, the famous oculist, whilst lecturing to his students in Vienna, told a pretty story of Dom Pedro, of Brazil. He said that he had had many opportunities of conversing with the ex-emperor, a man of the highest character and of great culture, whose heart and mind were always filled with plans for improving the condition of his people. It was one of his dearest wishes to have a big hospital in Rio, but he lacked the money wherewith to build it, and the wealthy could not be induced to subscribe. Then an idea came to him, as it had to the Emperor Joseph near home, and he began to bestir himself. Any man who was willing to give a good round sum to the hospital could call himself count, viscount, or baron. The patent of nobility was not hereditary, and if the children wished to inherit the father's title they had to pay over again. Rio was suddenly peopled with nobles, and the hospital was built on a grand scale; and, when it was completed, Dom Pedro had the following inscription placed over its gates:—"Vanitas humana miseria humana!" (Human vanity to human misery.)

FATAL STABBING CASE.

At the Worship-street Police Court, George Boyce, 17, described as a general dealer, of Lindley, Jubilee-street, Mile End, was charged with causing the death of Edward Sullivan by stabbing him with a penknife. Shortly after midnight on the 8th inst. deceased and the prisoner engaged in a fight, both being stripped to the waist. After two or three "rounds" Sullivan called out that he was stabbed, and, staggering back, he fell to the ground. He was found to be bleeding from a wound in the right breast, and was taken to the hospital by two men named Mahoney and McGarel. The prisoner subsequently attended at the hospital, and was seen by Police-constable Franklin, 85 J, who asked him if he knew how Sullivan had got his wound. The prisoner replied, "Yes, I stabbed him. We were fighting, and we both had knives. He made a stab at me, and cut my thumb, and I stabbed him." He added that he afterwards threw the knife away. Mr. Albert Offord, a house surgeon at the hospital, now spoke to the nature of the wound—a stab in the right breast, penetrating the artery leading from the heart. There seemed to be no witnesses to the using of the knife, though there were several to the fight, which occurred in Queen Ann-street, White-chapel. The prisoner, however, made a statement which, on being reduced to writing, he had signed, to the inspector who took the charge. It was, in effect, a confession of the charge. The prisoner, now being cautioned, made a lengthy statement, in which he said he was first attacked and made "fair fights," but then he found that Sullivan had drawn his knife, and in a struggle took out his knife and stabbed him. He said that he committed the prisoner for manslaughter.

THE WEST-END SCANDALS.

We are likely to hear more of Hammond's revelations. The London correspondent of the *Scottish Leader* hears that he "has been interviewed by the representative of an American news agency, and that his disclosures are of such a character, and that the agency have thought it wise to withhold the interview from publication. It is possible, however, that a brief summary of his statement will be made public, but the names of the persons implicated by Hammond are not likely to be known outside the office of the agency."

TERRIBLE TRAGEDY IN CANADA.

A correspondent telegraphs particulars of a fiendish crime committed by a young farmer named Rudolph Dubois, at St. Albans, village midway between Montreal and Quebec. Dubois, although a hard-working man, had an ungovernable temper and he was madly, but unjustly, jealous of his wife, a young and remarkably handsome woman. The family consisted of Dubois, his wife, his wife's mother, Mrs. Thebault, and his two children, Joseph, aged 4 years, and George, aged 4 months. Nothing is known of the immediate dispute which led to the tragedy, which was discovered by some neighbours, who, failing to obtain admission, forced open the door of the house. The place appeared to be a slaughterhouse. In the little parlour of the hall lay the body of the unfortunate wife, the skull cleft in two and the head partly severed from the body, evidently by a blow from a sharp axe. Near Mrs. Dubois lay the corpse of her mother, the skull split open, the face battered out of all recognition, and the body shockingly mutilated. In an adjoining bed-room were found the two children, also hacked and torn in a brutal manner. Search parties were at once organised, Dubois was tracked to a wood, and there arrested after a desperate struggle. An attempt was made to lynch him, but he was safely lodged in jail.

THE CHARGE OF SHOOTING MAJOR ISAACS, M.P.

Trial at the Old Bailey.

At the Central Criminal Court on Tuesday, before Lord Chief Justice Coleridge, Elizabeth Vincent, described as 26 years of age and as of no occupation, was charged with shooting Major Henry Isaacs, M.P., at Richmond, last October, with intent to murder him. Mr. Poland, Q.C., and Mr. Bealey prosecuted; the prisoner was defended by Mr. Murphy, Q.C., Mr. Paul Taylor, and Mr. J. H. Murphy.

The Case for the Prosecution.

—Mr. Poland, in opening the case for the prosecution, said that the prisoner, in addition to the charge on which she was indicted, was also charged with shooting with intent to cause grievous bodily harm. The prisoner's right name was Fanny Elizabeth Cornish. She was 27 years of age on the 18th of January last. When about 15 years of age she entered the service of the prosecutor as a nursery governess at 3, Kensington Square, Brompton. Major Isaacs was a widower in June, 1882, and the prisoner left his service, and through the kindness of a lady was sent to Germany to improve herself in German. She remained abroad until April, 1884. At that time she was twenty-one years of age. There was no doubt that after this Major Isaacs met her on several occasions. In April, 1887, a child was born, which was christened Amy Daisy. The prisoner was then living in Percy-road, Shepherd's Bush. However much the prosecutor was to blame, he thought all would agree that he had behaved most handsomely to her, for he allowed her £200 per annum, which he increased to £400, and in August, 1888, he settled by deed upon her child a sum of £2,000 and upon the prisoner £1,000. Shortly before this he had given her £500. In October last she was living at Church-road, Richmond, and during the year the prosecutor had given her £900 from time to time. He was sorry to say that the prisoner seemed to have fallen into bad hands, and seemed to have formed the acquaintance of a young man with whom she had a very close intimacy, to say nothing else. On the 8th of October the prosecutor saw the prisoner by appointment at the house at Richmond. The prisoner said she was alone in the house, and she locked the room door and produced a paper which she required the prosecutor to sign. He declined to sign one portion of the document, which he tore off. She then took from a cupboard a pistol, which she pointed at the prosecutor, and under the fear of the threat to sign the document he signed it. She then required him to give her £300. She then required him to sign a cheque, and he made an attempt to get the pistol from her. The prisoner fired, and the prosecutor, raising his arms to protect his head, received the bullet in the right arm. The prosecutor naturally desired to prevent an exposure, for the sake of his family, and was willing to do everything in his power to prevent it; but the prisoner's threats compelled him to take these proceedings. She persisted in her threats to be revenged. The prosecutor was willing to settle upon her considerable sums of money, the prisoner having fixed the amount at £15,000; but inasmuch as the prisoner would insist upon having all the money herself, and would not listen in any way to a settlement upon her child, negotiations were broken off. Other threats were made, but the prosecutor desired that she should be dealt with as leniently as possible consistent with the interests of justice.

Evidence of Major Isaacs.

—Major Isaacs was then examined in corroboration of the case against the prisoner. He said that on the prisoner closing the door at the house at Richmond on the occasion of his visit in October she said, "You and I are alone in this house, and if you wish to leave it alive you will sign that paper." He said he would rather suffer a thousand deaths than sign one portion of it, and he tore it off. He gave her £1,000 in cash upon the birth of the child. After he had signed the paper agreeing to give her £200,000, she required him to sign cheques for the amount, and produced three stamped pieces of paper. She held the pistol in her hand, and said if he wished to see his daughter alive, and if he valued his good name he would sign them. By this time he had gathered the scope of the plot, and thought there was nothing left for him but to get possession of the pistol. The table was then between them. The prisoner pointed the revolver at him and discharged it. He received the bullet in his arm, which he had raised to protect his head. She was only five feet away. He exclaimed that he was shot. She said "Where?" and he showed her the wound, and she then commenced screaming. She laid the pistol on the table and kissed him. There was a violent kicking at the door, which she opened, and a young man entered, demanding what it all meant. The witness became faint from loss of blood and the swelling of his arm, and he asked the prisoner for some brandy, which she gave him. The young man accompanied him to the station. He returned to London. He was under treatment for a long time, and the bullet was still in his arm. Subsequently he received a letter from the prisoner, in which she said that her life was dedicated to revenge, and that she would make no mistake next time. She demanded then £25,000, of which £23,500 was to be in cash. A number of letters from the prisoner were put in and read. It appeared that ultimately she raised her demand to £15,000.

Cross-examination.

—In cross-examination, Major Isaacs said the prisoner visited his chambers during his late wife's lifetime, but he strongly denied that there were any improper familiarities with her, and that she was 21. He had never intended to marry her. The prisoner appeared very fond of him, and he was passionately fond of the child. Mr. Murphy: I am not disputing that the allowance you made her was a most liberal one, but disputes arose about money matters?—The Prosecutor: Only in this way. I gave her £500 to purchase the house at Kensington in which she resided; but instead of buying it she went to Richmond, and agreed to purchase a house for £25,000, and agreed to pay a deposit. He was only told of this after she had signed the paper. She threatened to shoot him and poison herself, and so make the whole affair public. She also threatened to make the matter public through the newspapers. The Lord Chief Justice: What became of the paper? I cannot say. I did not have it. You had signed it. It was a valuable document. It was left on the table. Cross-examination continued: He went towards the prisoner to get the pistol, and asked her to let the pistol go by accident? I cannot say whether it was an accident as I cannot tell what was passing through the prisoner's mind at the time. My answer is the same as it was at the police court. —Were you not anxious that such a document should not be in the prisoner's possession? No; my mind was easy upon that, considering the way in which it had been extracted from me. —In re-examination, the prosecutor said that he brought nothing away from the house, and the paper was produced by the prisoner's solicitor at the police court. He had no idea that she had a pistol when he entered the house. It was not true that he used any violence towards the prisoner. The prosecution took place at a hotel at the West-end. Dr. Coker, of Shepherd's Bush, the prisoner's medical man, deposed that the prisoner wrote to him, and he saw her a few days after the occurrence. She told him that the prosecutor attempted to take the paper from her after he had signed it, and that he followed her round the table, and she shot him. He told her he was very sorry for her, as was the world act of her life. She said she purchased the revolver at Reading, and added that if she had killed the prosecutor she should have shot herself. She subsequently saw him again, when negotiations took place as to the money she required, and at the interview at the solicitor's office she was offered £5,000 in trust and £5,000

in cash. She, however, refused to accept this, and demanded £15,000, stating that unless the prosecutor gave it her she should die. She also said she would shoot every one connected with the business. He tried to advise her to accept the offer, but she said she would not, and if she met the prosecutor in the street she would deliberately run a knife into him. Cross-examination: He was trustee under the first settlement, and was a proposed trustee under the second. He communicated the threats made to the prosecutor from time to time. The Lord Chief Justice said he did not understand what a woman's trustee had to do with her prosecution. Cross-examination continued: He saw the prisoner's solicitor, but he could not say whether he told him of the prisoner's threats, although he believed he did.

A Solicitor's Evidence.

—Mr. Inman, from the office of Messrs. Wontner and Sons, produced the deed under which the prosecutor was to settle £26,000 upon her, in addition to giving her £25,500. The prisoner said she would not sign the deed, but would have £15,000. She said Major Isaacs should die, and that she would have his last penny and would murder all connected with the business. The witness inquired if she included him, and she said, "Yes; I may as well be hung for a sheep as a lamb." She further said she would murder the child before their eyes, and would shoot herself, leaving a paper behind to expose the deed. The prisoner was perfectly calm, and seemed to be very determined. A warrant was applied for the next day. Cross-examination: Twice during interviews he asked her to sit down and be calm. Detective Vyner stated that he arrested the prisoner at 85, Seymour-street, Edgware-road. She said, after hearing the warrant read, "That sounds very serious, but it was an accident. We had a few words, and she struggled with me, and the pistol went off." She afterwards said she regretted that she had not accepted the £25,500. Dr. William N. Voigt, surgeon, Kensington Park-road, deposed to attending the prosecutor and dressing his injuries. This closed the case on the part of the prosecution, and as no witnesses were called for the defence, Mr. Poland proceeded to address the jury, directing their attention more particularly to the count in the indictment charging the prisoner with shooting the prosecutor with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

Defence and Summing-up.

—On behalf of the accused, Mr. Murphy appealed to the jury to dismiss from their minds the suggestion that she had intended to murder the prosecutor. Major Isaacs himself admitted that he had chased the defendant round the table, and he also admitted the probability that the pistol was accidentally discharged in the confusion that ensued. He urged that if the prisoner had only accepted the £25,500 under the deed of settlement, the prosecution would have allowed public justice to take care of itself. The prosecution, in fact, was wholly and solely the outcome of that refusal. The Lord Chief Justice then summed up. He said the jury would have to consider the very serious question as to whether the prisoner fired the shot intentionally. They might come to the conclusion that the act was done unintentionally in every sense, in which case she would be entitled to an acquittal, because a mere accident was not a thing for which any one was responsible. It was possible by pure misadventure to kill one's dearest friend, and it would therefore be monstrous to find any other than a verdict of not guilty if they considered the occurrence an accident. His lordship commented on the fact that Mr. Isaacs himself could not say whether the pistol went off accidentally or not. If he had had any certainty about the matter there was nothing to prevent him from saying so. He said that he maintained his self-possession, and it might be thought that if there were intention a dozen circumstances would have indicated it. Neither Dr. Coker nor his evidence were pleasant subjects of contemplation. That he, his trustee and medical man, should be, so to speak, in the other camp, doing all he could to convict this woman without saying anything to her about it, was conduct which, he hoped, was rare in the medical profession. Thank God, there were few people in the world whom their friends and patients could trust more implicitly than medical men. (Slight applause.) He said he had made no charge for his services to Mr. Isaacs, and had entered nothing in his attendance book. Who on earth would have expected such entries in an attendance book? He had made no charge, perhaps; but he admitted that he hoped to be paid by Mr. Isaacs. Whatever might have been prosecutor's conduct in other respects, it must be admitted that the settlement he offered prisoner was a very handsome one. They would also have to consider how far Major Isaacs' conduct had brought about the transaction into which they were inquiring. It was obvious that the prosecutor had been most desirous of not bringing the matter before the public, and had only taken proceedings against the prisoner under stress of circumstances and with great reluctance. They were not there to consider whether or not Major Isaacs had acted in the interests of public justice. His lordship pointed to the fact that the prosecutor was uncertain whether the pistol went off accidentally or not, and remarked that had there been any intention a dozen circumstances would have indicated it. Mr. Poland had not pressed the verdict of attempted murder on them, and it was a matter entirely for the jury to decide whether the prisoner fired with intent to do grievous bodily harm. His lordship concluded by saying that they might return a verdict of unlawful wounding if they were of opinion that she did not intend to injure, but was merely using a dangerous weapon recklessly and carelessly.

Acquittal.

—The jury, after an absence of twenty minutes, returned with a verdict of not guilty on any count of the indictment. At this there was some applause in court, which the Lord Chief Justice instantly silenced by remarking that anybody who applauded would have reason to repent it in a week or a fortnight. The prisoner was then released on bail, and the minor count of the indictment, which charged the accused with presenting the revolver with a view of intimidating the prosecutor. The jury accordingly returned a verdict of not guilty on that count, and the defendant was discharged.

THE LABOUR CONFERENCE.

The following is the full list of officials appointed by the Government to proceed to Berlin to represent Great Britain upon the labour conference. Plenipotentiaries: Sir John Gorst, M.P., Mr. Charles Scott, C.B., Sir William Houldsworth, M.P., and Mr. David Dale. Delegates: Mr. Burt, M.P., Mr. T. Birtwhistle, M.P., Mr. Whymer, inspector of factories, and Mr. J. Burnett, of the labour department of the Board of Trade. These are in addition to Sir Edward Malet, the British ambassador at Berlin, and it is stated on authority that Sir Edward Malet and Mr. John Gorst have been appointed plenipotentiaries respectively the political and legal interests involved.

ATTEMPTING TO BRIBE POLICEMEN.

Joseph Richardson, of Severn-road, Clapham Junction, was charged at Lambeth Police Court on Thursday with attempting to bribe two policemen by giving them a sovereign each. Mr. Geoghegan defended. —Detective Williamson, D. Division, said on the 11th March two men, named Murray and Edwards, were committed for trial on a charge of stealing a gold watch and chain, and bail in £100 was allowed for each prisoner. About eleven o'clock on Wednesday the prisoner was brought to him by Sergeant McCarthy and Mr. Armstrong Clark, and offered to be bail for Edwards. He asked witness not to make inquiries, but to get Edwards out, and gave him a sovereign. He gave a similar amount to a constable. Prisoner was committed for trial at the Old Bailey.

WONDERFUL JAPANESE FAMILY. Their Combined Ages Total 994 Years.

"A thousand years in one household" is an old Japanese saying employed with reference to an event which, in respect of extreme rarity, may be classed with the sight of a dead donkey or a tinker's funeral. The *Hochi Shimbun* says that an instance may at present be found in the household of a merchant called Minawa Genzoku, who resides at Kanazawa, in the Saitama district of Sado. The family consists of the following members:—Great-great-great-grandpapa Gengo, aged 130; great-great-great-grandpapa Tomi, aged 132; great-great-great-grandpapa Gembu, aged 101; great-great-great-grandpapa Miyo, aged 99; great-great-great-grandpapa Yoshi, aged 105; great-great-great-grandpapa Gensuke, aged 81; great-grandpapa Kimi, aged 79; grandpapa Gempachi, aged 61; grandpapa Tomoyasu, aged 60; papa Genzoku, aged 32; son Genzoku, aged 33; daughter Toki, aged 25. The united ages of the fourteen amounted, at the close of last year, to 990, and consequently became 994 on the first day of this year, according to the Japanese method of calculation. Next New Year's Day, supposing that death had not intervened meanwhile, the aggregate ages would be 1,008, and as 994 is nearer 1,000 than 1,008, the family have resolved to celebrate their *ikku con-nan* (the thousandth anniversary of the family) on the first day of the New Year, when the shrine of Ise, after a visit to Kyoto, when the whole of the nation, from the little tot of the greyhead—if he still has a hair—of 130, will do their sightseeing in company.

A MONEY LENDING CASE.

At the Central Criminal Court, before the Common Serjeant, three men, named Charles Wallis, Alfred Parry, and Ellis Wrench, were rendered to take their trial for misdemeanour, by unlawfully making a forcible and violent entry into a certain dwelling-house in the peaceable and legal possession of George Monk, and also with doing damage to the said dwelling-house to the extent of the value of the furniture and other contents thereof. The defendants were further charged with conspiring with a number of other persons to commit the same offences. Mr. Candy, Q.C., Mr. Keith Frith, and Mr. Sands appeared for the prosecution; and Mr. J. P. Grain for the defendants. The prosecutor is a solicitor's clerk. It appeared that some time back he contracted a loan with some money lenders upon the usual terms of 60 per cent. on trust, the security being a bill of sale upon the furniture at his residence in Farnborough-road, Hackney. The prosecutor was in possession of a considerable portion of the loan, but a dispute arose as to the balance that was due towards the end of last year, which resulted in the defendant Wrench being placed in possession of the prosecutor's furniture by the money lenders. He subsequently went out of possession in consequence of something that previously occurred which was not very clearly explained. The prosecutor applied to the High Court to have the bill of sale set aside upon some technicality, but the court said that upon the application on the condition that the prosecutor should pay into court the balance that was due on the bill of sale. This was not done, and so things appeared to have remained until the night of the 3rd of February, when Wrench went to the house and asked for admission, which was refused, on the ground of the lateness of the hour, and he went away. On the part of the prosecution it was alleged that he was accompanied by the other defendants and several other men, and that when Wrench was refused admission, they went to a public-house in the neighbourhood, where they remained until closing time. It was said that they then got over the garden wall at the back of the house, and by means of breaking a pane of glass in the back kitchen door and other violence they succeeded in getting into the kitchen. The prosecutor, alarmed by the noise, went down into the kitchen, and there found all the defendants and two other men, who insisted upon retaining possession. An application was made to the High Court on the following morning, and when the facts were stated to Mr. Justice Denman, that learned judge at once granted a peremptory order that the defendants should retire from the premises. Warrants were then obtained for the apprehension of the men who were alleged to have forcibly broken into the prosecutor's house, and the three defendants were taken into custody upon the present charge, and it was said that the other two had absconded. Mr. Grain, on behalf of the defendants, endeavoured to show that Wrench had been got out of the house in the first instance by some trick, and, if this was the case, the law gave him a right to re-enter by force, and no more force was used than was absolutely necessary for that purpose. The jury convicted all the defendants of forcible entry, and they were sentenced to be imprisoned, without hard labour, for three months. This concluded the business, and the Court adjourned to Monday, March 24th.

REMARKABLE WILL SUIT.

In the Divorce Division on Wednesday, Sir James Hannen and a special jury had before them the suit of Proctor and others v. Purvis. Mr. Underwick, Q.C., and Mr. Pritchard appeared for the plaintiffs; and Mr. Waddy, Q.C., and Mr. H. Deane for the defendants. The case was opened by Mr. Underwick on Saturday, from which it appeared that Miss Jane Proctor, whose will was in dispute, formerly lived with her sister Isabella, at South Shields. They made wills in each others' favour, and were inseparable companions. In 1879 they packed up all their belongings, which consisted of a very considerable quantity of luggage, with the intention of taking up their residence at Grange-on-the-Sands, Cumberland. A railway porter, becoming suspicious of the appearance and sequence of the luggage that they had with them, communicated with the local police, and they were arrested as thieves. Afterwards they were charged with being wandering lunatics. Shortly afterwards Miss Isabella Proctor died, and then the deceased went to reside at a temperance hotel at South Shields. She made the acquaintance of the defendant, Mr. Robert Purvis, a solicitor of South Shields, and clerk to the local justices, and he was elected her partner. Her death occurred on the 24th of 1888, and three days previously she executed a will in favour of Mr. Purvis, leaving him the whole of her property. He obtained probate of the will, but it was now sought by the plaintiffs, the nephews and nieces of the deceased, to revoke the probate and to have an intestacy declared, they alleging that the deceased was of unsound mind. The property passing under the will amounted to about £1,400. Mr. J. S. Bon-timan, a surgeon in practice at South Shields, who had attended the deceased, said he considered her quite sane and capable of making a will. As against the will Mr. Underwick addressed the jury, and called Dr. Harrison, of the County Lunatic Asylum, Lancaster, who said the deceased was very depressed and melancholic, and had a delusion that she was a member of a secret society. Dr. Armstrong, of South Shields, considered the deceased of weak intellect, but harmless. On one occasion he noticed that her hair was dyed (laughter)—which gave her a peculiar and striking appearance. Nobody could pass her without looking at her. Upon the resumption of the case on Wednesday, it was intimated that the parties had come to terms. The charge of undue influence was withdrawn, and the will pronounced for.

FIRING ON A WEDDING PARTY.

When returning from a wedding at Trerhy Church, near St. Austell, and when the carriage containing the bride and bridegroom had driven a short distance, a man in the road discharged a gun at the carriage. The gun was loaded with shot, and the shot passed through the hood and window of the vehicle close to the faces of the occupants, and entered the back of Mr. Hooper, a lively stable-keeper, of St. Austell, who was driving. Notwithstanding his injuries Mr. Hooper was able to drive home, and subsequently the shot was extracted. It was afterwards ascertained that the gun was fired as a sign of rejoicing and not maliciously.

UTION.-INVESTIGATION OF THE

"THE PEOPLE" MIXTURE.

"Carmen Sylva," the Queen of Roumania, will publish her new novel in about three weeks' time. Its scene is laid in England.

The Sultan of Johore, who visited England in the jubilee year, is expected to arrive in London during the present month for a stay of several weeks.

The remains of Sir James Ingham were interred on Monday in Kensal Green Cemetery. Several staid magistrates followed the coaches in which rode the members of the family and the immediate friends.

A man named Hales was brought before the magistrates at Bromley, Kent, having been captured at midnight while stealing fowls. On being sentenced to two months' hard labour he thanked the magistrate and said he deserved it.

A severe gale raged around Edinburgh on Tuesday. Whilst a goods train was crossing the Forth Bridge the wind blew a hail of cotton off a wagon; the result was that several wagons left the rails, and for some time traffic had to be conducted on a single line.

At the London Sessions at Clerkenwell, John Ryan was found guilty of assaulting and beating a man named Singer, in order to intimidate him from working at St. Olave's Wharf. Mr. Waddy, Q.C., said the prisoner was a hired bully, and must have an exemplary sentence. He was sent to gaol for three months' hard labour.

The lowest tide in the Thames for some years occurred on Monday, the river being twenty-one feet below Trinity high water mark. Steam tugs were unable to pass through several of the arches of London Bridge. On the previous evening, on the other hand, an extraordinarily high tide prevailed.

At the Board of Trade inquiry into the recent collision with the Scotch express, the train conductor stated that at Preston the train was satisfactorily stopped by the automatic brake, which, however, failed to act when passing Carlisle. It was stated that the brake had since the accident been found to be in perfect working order.

The late secretary to the Gresham House Estate Company, named James Holmes, whose offices are in Old Broad-street, was charged at the Guildhall, with embezzling the moneys of the company. The prisoner absented himself from the office in September, and was not again seen until he was apprehended on the 9th inst. He was remanded.

Sir H. James, addressing a meeting at Nelson, demanded that the country should be informed by those responsible for the Home Rule policy what was the power to be given to members in the Irish Parliament, and to the Irish members of the Imperial Parliament, and what power was to be entrusted to the executive in Ireland.

A memorial presented by the Dog Owners' Protection Association at the recent dog show in Holborn, and signed by over 1,500 owners, breeders, and others, has been presented to Mr. Chaplin, President of the Board of Agriculture, by Mr. H. R. Farquharson, M.P., and Mr. H. Knatchbull-Hugessen, M.P. The memorial asks for the withdrawal of the present muzzling order, and protests against any further enactments of the same nature.

The military authorities having altered the arrangements for the Easter manoeuvres, so that the Dover marching corps should be billeted from Saturday to Monday morning at Folkestone, Sandgate, and Rythe, it has been resolved at a town meeting at Dover not to provide the funds necessary to compensate the farmers over whose ground the manoeuvres are to take place unless the troops proceed to Dover on the Saturday.

John Palmer was tried at the Central Criminal Court on the charge of shooting Thomas Elliot, door-keeper at Hengler's Circus. The accused, when drunk, went to the circus, and on being refused admission he fired two shots at Elliot, who was not seriously injured. The jury found him guilty of shooting with intent to do bodily harm, and he was sentenced to nine months' hard labour.

An action, brought by Mr. H. Keene, of Barnes, to recover £50 paid for shares in the Gatling Gun Company, was tried in the City of London Court. The plaintiff alleged that the defendant, Mr. T. D. Pillans, who was secretary, made untrue statements to him as to the company's position and prospects, which induced him not to sell his shares as he intended doing; but this the defendant denied. The jury found for the plaintiff.

The receipts on account of revenue from the 1st of April, 1889, when there was a balance of £5,592,092, to March 8th, 1890, were £82,895,232, against £82,284,182 in the corresponding period of the preceding financial year, which began with a balance of £7,647,072. The net expenditure was £27,629,344, against £28,154,116 to the same date in the previous year. The Treasury balances on March 8th, 1890, amounted to £5,355,496, and at the same date in 1889 to £7,354,651.

The Queen, according to the most recent arrangements, will leave the continent on the 24th on a visit to the Continent for the benefit of her health. Her Majesty will be accompanied by Prince and Princess Henry of Battenberg. Before her departure her Majesty will hold a series of State functions in order to dispose of necessary official duties. The Queen is in good health, with the exception of some traces of her recent neuralgic affection.

A very successful dramatic display was given the other evening by members of the St. Philip's Institute at Archbishop Sumner's Memorial School, Teddworth-street, Kensington-road. The entertainment included Indian club, parallel bar, and boxing by Messrs. Fry and Fattis, T. Causser and J. Knowles. Interspersed with the athletic programme were several musical items, including a piano solo by Miss Felt and songs by Mr. R. Martin and Mr. C. Gibson.

Thirteen years ago a Mr. Knight died, leaving freehold property, which, at his wife's death, was never proved, and was destroyed by the widow. At her death Mr. Justice Butt granted probate of the will, believing the widow had no guilty intention in destroying the document. The eldest son of the testator appealed, and Lord Justice Cotton gave it as his opinion that Mr. Justice Butt was wrong; but as Lords Justices Lindley and Lopes took the opposite view, the appeal was dismissed.

It is practically decided to hold in Vienna an international exhibition of musical instruments of every kind, from the piano and violin to the drum, and of original music scores, autograph letters, portraits, and photographs of all the celebrated musicians and composers of the world. The opening of this unique exhibition, in which the Princess Pauline Metternich is taking the chief interest, is arranged for August, when the festival of the German Sängerbund will be held in Vienna. On that occasion about 12,000 German vocalists are expected.

A house in Upper Norwood was entered the other night by burglars. The next morning the proprietor missed £120 worth of plate, and saw a ladder outside the drawing-room window. A servant man picked up in the garden whence the ladder had been removed a piece of an envelope, which led the police to watch a house in Lamb's Conduit-street. A builder named Dearman was leaving the house when he was apprehended, and the constables found several burglars' tools on the premises. Dearman had upwards of £500 upon him in gold. He was brought up at the Lambeth Police Court and remanded.

The Children's Happy Evening Association have commenced operations in the Bethnal Green district, at the Nicol-street Board School, where 1,500 boys and girls receive their education from day to day. Lady George Hamilton inaugurated the proceedings by acquainting the 200 ladies present with the object which the association had in view—that of providing them with amusement in the same school in which they obtained their education. The lady chosen to be present on the occasion were those who had the best records of

attendance in the second, fourth, fifth, and sixth standards.

The Shah is said to desire the erection of gas works in Persia.

A crematorium is to be built at Manchester at a cost of about £60,000.

It is calculated that one person in every twelve has an accident of some kind during the year.

There were 2,536 births and 1889 deaths in London last week.

Mr. Stanley goes to Brussels for Easter before journeying to England.

Accident or negligence was the cause of sixty deaths in London last week.

Again there were in the metropolis last week twenty-four deaths from influenza.

During February no less than 159,851,698 gallons of water were supplied to London daily.

Mr. Acworth calculates that it will now be possible to travel from London to Aberdeen in eleven hours and a half.

There are 685,202 women in England and Wales who are entitled to vote at county council elections.

The Directors of the North British Railway Company announce a dividend at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, with £7,000 carried forward.

The London infants under twelve months old who died last week from suffocation—from "over-laying"—reached the large total of twenty.

The Prince of Wales has consented to take the chair at the dinner of the Royal Literary Fund, to be held in St. James's Hall on the 14th of May.

It has been decided at the War Office that all open ranges at which the new rifle is used it will be necessary to obtain firing rights over 5,000 yards in rear of the targets.

The dead body of Robert A. Smith, a merchant in New Market, Ontario, was found in the collar of his house. He had been murdered and the house had been ransacked.

Michael McDonough, of Akron, Ohio, discovered a heavy iron rail across the railroad track. While trying to drag it away a train struck one end of it and crushed McDonough's head, killing him.

The influence of dress goes a long way. Ladies who wear the new Scotch plaid stockings are said to be chiefly feeding on oatmeal and drinking Scotch whisky.

It is calculated that fully one-fourth of the land surface of the globe remains unexplored and comparatively unknown to the civilised nations of the earth.

A pork butcher at Breslau having been convicted of selling pork affected with trichinae, has been sentenced to fifteen years' penal servitude and six years' subsequent police surveillance.

The Queen has forwarded through General Sir Henry Ponsonby her annual subscription of £50 to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, of which her Majesty is the patron.

At an examination recently a boy, who was asked to tell what he knew of Jonah, replied that he was cast into a fiery furnace seven times heated, where he was swallowed by a whale, and the whale waxed fat and kicked.

On Anniversary Day at Goulburn, Victoria, one M. Hardy, a local policeman, beat the world's record in throwing the 14lb. weight, his score being 65ft. 11in. Duncan Haas and Donald Dinnie were among the competitors.

Dr. Brown-Squard declares that under the guillotine every particle of life departs as the head is severed. Dr. Michel Peter thinks that life survives in the brain but only for a short time, owing to the absence of blood.

High jumping is said to be the latest fad amongst New York society women. Trying to jump into high society here has been the aim of a good many imported specimens of the Yankee female.

A full bench at Calcutta has quashed the conviction of the soldier O'Hara, who had been sentenced to death for shooting a native at Dum Dum. The grounds of the decision were misdirection of the jury and insufficient evidence.

The Russian General Annetoff is sending to Europe a troupe of seventy Tokin singers—Afghans and Bokharans—headed by the famous Asiatic singer, Ak-Inchali-Ogli. This will be rather worse than the Chinese band.

Miss Agnes Fleming, of Atlanta, Georgia, dressed herself up as a "masher" and paid a visit to a neighbouring town, and in about four hours had got engaged to no less than six other girls. When found out she declared she had "never had such larks before in her life."

The American Congress has appointed a joint committee to investigate emigration, with special reference to the effect upon American labour of the influx of foreign labourers, also the effect of the purchase of American industrial plant by foreign capital.

Lady Hillingdon has opened a convalescent home for children at The Wilderness, Lord Hillingdon's place in Kent. It is intended for patients from London. A sister from one of the metropolitan hospitals has been appointed matron.

The returns of metropolitan pauperism for the fourth week of February show that the total number of paupers was 100,508, being 61,257 indoor and 39,251 outdoor. The totals for the three previous years were: 1889, 106,583; 1888, 111,837; and 1887, 104,731. The vagrants relieved number 908, being 754 men, 139 women, and 15 children.

Frank Crook, the carman who the previous week at Dalston Police Court made a false confession of having murdered his wife, and created some sensation by declaring like a dog, has been certified by the prison surgeon to be insane, and Mr. Smith on Thursday ordered his removal to the workhouse.

Sporting is always among the most flourishing of Australian interests. The report of the Australian Jockey Club, the chief New South Wales turf organisation, shows that during the last year all expenses were covered and £19,000 expended on the Randwick course—the principal course near Sydney.

The Mohammedans of Bombay and Poona have determined to put down the drama. All officers of the Prophet are forbidden to attend the play, on pain of being fined, for a first offence five rupees (about 10s.), and for a second 10 rupees (about £1). A third offender will be excommunicated.

The County Council at their last meeting resolved, as a general principle, that their servants should retire at the age of 65. A project for the establishment of a lunatic asylum was adjourned for six months. Miss Cobden was elected to fill a vacancy on the Parks Committee notwithstanding an amendment based upon the contention that ladies could not sit upon the council. The amendment was negatived by 64 to 23.

From inquiries made by the police at New York respecting the murder last month of a man named Isaac Jacob, whose assassin, a Jewish pedlar, committed suicide, it appears that the body of a woman recently discovered in the cellar of a house in Eldridge-street was one of several women with whom Jacob had gone through the ceremony of marriage. The police have good evidence that the woman was murdered by Jacob, who was half porter of the building in which the body was found. She was his divorced wife.

The Queen has signified her intention of giving her patronage to the forthcoming Stanley and African Exhibition, conjointly with the King of the Belgians. The exhibition will open on Monday, the 24th inst. On the previous Saturday evening the executive committee will hold a reception at the Victoria Gallery, for which a limited number of invitations will be issued. Great progress is being made in fitting up the galleries and arranging the exhibits. Far more articles have been sent than it will be possible to give space to. The exhibition, it is already evident, will be thoroughly representative of all aspects of Central Africa. Some of the exhibits,

such as the Livingstone relics, will have a special interest.

No less than 12,126 lb. of unsound meat were seized in Edinburgh during February.

There have been 5,000 cases of influenza in Kidderminster.

Mr. Parnell did not vote in the great division, in consequence of having accidentally missed a train.

There will be a dress rehearsal of the Oberammergau Passion play, open to the public, on Sunday, May 18th.

Dr. Pietsch has been summoned by the Prussian Government from Griefswald to Berlin, to assist, as a philological expert, in preparing the jubilee edition of Luther's works.

The Prince of Wales and Prince George of Wales will leave Charing Cross on the evening of Wednesday next, on their visit to the German Emperor at Berlin.

Count Tattenbach, German Minister resident at Tangiers, will be accompanied by about twelve German officers on his mission to the Sultan of Morocco at Fez, when he will deliver the Emperor's presents.

The influenza is reported to have broken out in several places in Bombay, Madras, and the north-western provinces. It is of a mild type, and no deaths have resulted, but a large number of people have been ill.

A fire broke out the other night at Dunkirk, in the branch office of the Bank of France, a large two-story building in the centre of the town. The upper part was entirely destroyed, and the ground floor alone was saved. The loss is said to amount to about £3,000.

Mr. Christie Murray has gone in for a much more extensive programme of travel than he intended when he left England. He intends to make himself acquainted with all the English-speaking communities and their institutions the world over.

Sir A. K. Rolit, M.P., has been elected president of the Association of Municipal Corporations. Having enumerated the bills introduced last session affecting municipalities, he expressed a hope that more legislation in that direction would be accomplished, and that it would not meet with obstruction in the House of Commons.

Mr. Harry Furniss is the latest benefactor of the National Gallery. He has offered to the trustees his collection of illustrations of the work of modern artists recently on view in Bond-street. The only stipulation made is that the sketches shall have a room assigned to their exhibition.

Mr. Bowen Rowlands, Q.C., the treasurer of Gray's Inn, is sorely puzzled to understand how Charles Dickens could ever have described Gray's Inn as "one of the most depressing institutions in brick and mortar," and he suggests a visit to the delightful gardens laid out with such "good discretion" under the personal direction of Francis Bacon.

Sir A. Northwick presided at a meeting of delegates from the Primrose League habitations in the county of Surrey, with a view to form a central council, which, he said, would enable them to concentrate their forces for the defence of the metropolis and county by-elections. He reminded his audience that Surrey contained six constituencies which returned Conservative metropolitan members to Parliament.

The proposals of the late M. Girard, and of his successor, M. Barre, with regard to a sliding railway, were discussed at the Society of Arts, Sir Douglas Galton having read a paper on the subject. Sir P. Bramwell, who presided, counselled the men of science to suspend their judgment on the matter, and expressed his satisfaction that an experimental line, a mile in length, was shortly to be opened.

Mr. Richard Cadbury, of Moseley Hall, Birmingham, the principal partner in the firm of Cadbury Brothers, cocoa manufacturers, has offered to the Birmingham and Midland Sanatorium Committee the sum of £20,000 for the purchase of Moseley Hall, his presidential residence, and twenty acres of land, and to furnish the buildings and lay out the land for the purchase of a children's sanatorium.

"Many are the clever things, and there is nothing more clever than man," especially the Yankee variety. Here is the latest dose of Philadelphia. A free education at the University of the Americas college is offered to the girl who in the course of the year procures the greatest number of subscribers to a ladies' journal. As a consolation prize, one year's free education is guaranteed to any girl who books a thousand subscribers.

In a report explanatory of the Navy Estimates, Lord G. Hamilton states that all the ships ordered and commenced before the current financial year will be completed during the present year, with the exception of two; and that of the thirty-eight vessels of the new programme under the eight Defence Act that are to be built in the dockyards, twenty-one have been commenced, seven will be begun this year, and only ten will be left to commence after next March.

Mr. Whitmore, M.P., opened some new premises which have been erected in connection with the Whitmore Conservative Club, Harrow-road, and among those present were Major Jocelyn, Captain James, Unionist candidate for North Kensington, and Mr. F. E. Eddis, chairman of the club, who said the primary object of the club was to develop Conservative principles and strengthen the Conservative party in that part of the borough of Chelsea.

Mr. Baron Huddleston and a special jury have tried an action brought by Mr. Shairp against Sir P. Pryce Jones, to recover salary for services in connection with the proposed Welsh Exhibition. Sir P. Pryce Jones denied that he ever employed the plaintiff, or authorised any one else to do so; and the secretary stated that the plaintiff had been told that he was to be put upon the staff until a site was obtained. The jury found a verdict for the defendant.

At the annual meeting of the Charity Organisation Society, held at Princes Hall, a resolution was adopted urging the Government to appoint a royal commission or select committee of the House of Lords to make inquiry in regard to the financial and general management and common organisation of medical institutions, endowed and voluntary, and in regard to the administration of poor law institutions for the aid of the sick in the metropolis, and to make recommendations thereon.

The design which the Pope has chosen for his tomb is the Pontiff's own figure leaning over a sepulchral urn. On either side there will be a colossal statue, representing Religion and Justice. The design also includes a tablet carved in high relief, the subject of which is not yet known, as Leo XIII. has more than once changed his mind about it. The whole monument is to be of pure white marble, except the urn, which will be of porphyry. It will be completed in three years from now.

A meeting of the Tithe Question Association has been held to consider the Tithe Rent Charge and Recovery Bill now before Parliament. Lord Bramborne, who was invited to speak, denounced its provisions, and said they should show Lord Salisbury that they would not be deterred by any considerations of party policy from opposing the development of the tithe question for the benefit of the metropolis, and to make recommendations thereon.

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now applied to have that order restored, but their lordships refused the application.

Mr. A. J. Newton has been elected alderman for the Ward of Hainishaw by 176 votes, against 135 given for Mr. Sheriff Harris.

Mr. P. T. Barnum called for New York from Southampton on Thursday, in the North German Lloyd steamship *Saale*.

Five thousand pounds has come to the London Temperance Hospital under a trust deed executed by the late George Sturge, of Sydenham Hill.

Lord Cranborne, the Premier's eldest son, declares that "Lord Randolph Churchill is unworthy of any further attention."

There were over 300 deaths from alcoholic poisoning in Odessa last year. Odessa is a town of 240,000 souls.

There were 104,731 paupers in the metropolis in the last week in February—58,561 indoor and 46,170 outdoor.

Sir James Hannen will not sit in court again until April 14th. His lordship starts for Rome in a day or two for a month's holiday, after his protracted labours in the Parnell Commission.

The Prince and Princess of Wales and Princess Victoria and Maud of Wales visited the galleries of the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours, Piccadilly, on Wednesday.

Mrs. Ann Leek, of Kiplin, Yorkshire, has died in her 101st year. She was married in 1809, and had lived in the same house ninety-nine years. There is another Mrs. Leek living in the neighbourhood who has attained the same age.

The accounts of the Irish members against the defence and allegations of the Times have now been practically made up. It is said that they slightly exceed £37,000.

A clever sculptor, Adolphe Léofanti, has shot himself in the train from Rennes to Paris. His "Christ au Tombeau" was at the International Exhibition. M. Léofanti, who was about 60 years of age, leaves a widow and two children.

The influenza has been making great ravages in Teheran. Several members of the royal family have caught the illness, and as many as seventy deaths have been registered in the city on one day.

The Bedford Town Council has elected Mr. J. P. Piper as town clerk in the place of the late Mr. Thued William Poore, who recently died after a long illness, and whose family had held the office of town clerk for three generations.

At the flower show held at the Royal Aquarium, special prizes were offered for hyacinths, cyclamens, tulips, and such flowering plants as, under forced culture, can be had in bloom at this particular season of the year.

There has been an extraordinary scene at a Congregational church in Dundee. The minister was expressing liberal sentiments with regard to Sabbath observance, when a prominent member of the congregation rose and told the preacher he ought to be ashamed of himself.

The last remaining ruins of the Commune, those of the Cour des Comptes, are to be the site, according to a Government proposal, of a decorative arts museum, which is to be erected by a society, and after fifteen years to become public property.

Within the last few weeks an unpretending but useful institution has been opened in the neighbourhood of Trafalgar-square, in the form of a reading club for women servants in hotels.

Lord George Hamilton has taken an active interest in its welfare, and is one of its most constant visitors.

At Devon Assizes, Mr. Justice Stephen sentenced George Lake, a labourer, aged 17, to five years' penal servitude for burglary. There were five previous convictions recorded against the prisoner, who commenced his criminal career at the age of 10, and as a boy, was twice flogged and sent to a reformatory.

The strike in the Irish bacon trade has been renewed in consequence of Messrs. Shaw and Sons refusing to take back to work the leader of the movement, Michael Sheahan. The men employed at all the bacon-curing establishments in Limerick have refused to resume work until Sheahan has been re-employed.

While the mail steamer *Munster* was crossing the Irish Channel on Wednesday morning, with a large number of saloon passengers for Holyhead, her machinery broke down when she was well out in the Channel and the passenger steamer *Lily* had to come and tow her to Holyhead for repairs.

THE QUEEN IN LONDON.
The Queen and Princess Beatrice, attended by Colonel the Hon. H. Byng and Colonel the Hon. W. Carington and the ladies-in-waiting, left Windsor Castle at twenty minutes past eleven o'clock on Thursday morning for London. The royal party drove to the Windsor Station of the Great Western Railway. The Queen and Princess, on arrival at Paddington shortly before noon, drove, under escort, to Buckingham Palace.

NOTICE.
To avoid loss of time and inconvenience, all communications on business matters should be addressed to the **MANAGER**, and not to the **EDITOR**.

PERSONAL.

MARRIAGE.—Middle-aged Bachelor, of small means, wishes to correspond with a Lady with some means and view to above. Will F. S. W. give address to **ANDRICK**, Kelly's Library, Vigo-street, Regent-street, W.

ARE YOU ENTITLED TO PROPERTY you cannot claim, because you do not know the particulars? Send in, for our genuine record of over 5000 claims, and we will tell you, and CO., successors to Cox and Co., 55, Chancery-lane, London.

SPECIAL PREPAID RATES.
ADVERTISEMENTS RELATING TO Situations Wanted or Vacant, Houses or Apartments to Let or Wanted, Houses, &c., or Articles for Sale, Lost or Found, &c., &c., are charged at a **SPECIAL LOW RATE OF 1s. FOR 16 WORDS** and 6d. PER LINE, OR EIGHT WORDS, AFTER.

These rates apply only to private or individual announcements, and are not intended for advertising the above descriptions when sent by the advertiser in his trade or professional character. Prepayment is indispensable.

SITUATIONS WANTED.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 16, good character, neat, willing girl, wages 25/- a week, 67, St. John's Hill, Clapham.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 15, 16 months' character, wages 25/- a week, 67, St. John's Hill, Clapham.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 17, 10 months' character, wages 25/- a week, 67, St. John's Hill, Clapham.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 16, 6 months and 2 years' character, wages 25/- a week, 67, St. John's Hill, Clapham.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 19, 1 year and 8 months' character, wages 25/- a week, 67, St. John's Hill, Clapham.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 16, good character, wages 25/- a week, 67, St. John's Hill, Clapham.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 20, respectable, neat, able to cook, wages 25/- a week, 67, St. John's Hill, Clapham.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 18, tall, bright country girl, 12 months' character, wages 25/- a week, 67, St. John's Hill, Clapham.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 19, 1 year and 8 months' character, wages 25/- a week, 67, St. John's Hill, Clapham.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 19, tall, neat, girl used to housework, but has not been out before, wages 25/- a week, 67, St. John's Hill, Clapham.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 19, strong, bright, girl, very nice appearance, 2 years' personal character, wages 25/- a week, 67, St. John's Hill, Clapham.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 21, good plain cook, respectable, 6 months and 12 months' personal character, wages 25/- a week, 67, St. John's Hill, Clapham.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 15, willing, bright, fond of children, wages 25/- a week, 67, St. John's Hill, Clapham.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 21, neat appearance, able to cook, wages 25/- a week, 67, St. John's Hill, Clapham.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 17 (quite older), 8 months' character, wages 25/- a week, 67, St. John's Hill, Clapham.

GENERAL SERVANT, age 16, neat, bright-looking girl, used to housework, wages 25/- a week, 67, St. John's Hill, Clapham.

SITUATIONS VACANT.

BOOT TRADE.—Wanted Good Clerks. Apply, Franklin, 60, White Lion-street, Norton Folgate, E.

KITCHENMAID.—16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 424, 426, 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(continued)

ALLEGED OUTRAGE ON THE RAILWAY.

Extraordinary Story.
On the arrival at Crews on Wednesday night of the joint express, which travels between Bristol, Hereford, Worcester, and London, a master mariner, who gave the name of Christopher O'Neil, of Dublin, was found in a carriage which bore traces of blood and had the windows and curtains damaged. He complained that between Shrewsbury and Crews, after the train was in motion, four men had got out of an adjoining compartment, walked along the footboard, and tried to force an entrance into his compartment. One of them brandished a knife and said they intended to rob him. The man's arm was almost cut off, and he was detained. He was brought before the magistrates at Crews on Thursday, and repeated his story without variation. He produced certificates showing he was a master mariner. He started from Cardiff on the previous night with four men in the same carriage. On the way they wanted his gold ring, overcoat, and money, but he resisted them. On the train stopping at the next station he got out and entered an empty compartment of the adjoining. After the train started, one of the men appeared at the window, and said he was determined to rob him. The prisoner put his fist through the window and "sent him flying." A second man afterwards appeared at the off-side window, and prisoner put his fist through the glass, and knocked him over. He was attacked a third time, and knocked that man off in the same way. The station detectives at Crews did not accept the man's story as being true. He had torn the curtain off to bandage his arm, which was bleeding profusely. At the police station he endeavoured to force an entrance into the inspector's room, saying that his wife was there, and during the night he was busily engaged, in the language of the police, in "catching devils," whom he alleged, were climbing up the wall. The prisoner was discharged, and was accompanied on his journey to Dublin by a detective, in order that he might be restrained from doing further damage. His wife telegraphed from Dublin, offering to pay all expenses, and it is believed that this will be the end of O'Neil's adventure.

THE SUNDAY OPENING OF MUSEUMS.

A meeting in furtherance of the objects of the National Sunday League was held in St. James's Hall, Piccadilly, Mr. H. L. W. Lawson, M.P., in the chair. The object of the meeting was to repeat and emphasize the demand for free access to the national museums and art galleries on Sundays. Sunday was the only day on which the bulk of the people could really utilise those places, and there could be little doubt that, at the present day, London was of one mind on this question, similar progress in public opinion having been made in other large centres of population throughout the country. Last year, at the request of the league, the Duke of Westminster opened the picture gallery at Grosvenor House on two Sundays, and on the first occasion there were 1,200 visitors, while on the second the number was increased to upwards of 2,000; while a similar success had attended a like experiment at the residence of the Duke of Wellington and at the Arts and Crafts Exhibition. Hampton Court Palace, Kew Gardens, and Greenwich Hospital had been thrown open at the national cost for years, and it seemed impossible to show why a policy that was applicable in these cases should be inapplicable elsewhere. (Cheers.)—Sir H. Roscoe, M.P., moved the following resolution: "That, as the national museums and art galleries at Kew, Hampton Court, Greenwich, and Dublin have been opened by the Government and House of Commons on Sundays for many years past, this meeting is of opinion that it is unjust and inconsistent to keep the museums and art galleries in London closed on that day; and, recognising the necessity and desirability of Sunday opening emphatically demands, on behalf of the working classes of this metropolis, that these tax-supported institutions should be open on Sunday afternoon, but upon the express condition that no officer should be required to attend more than one day per week." He remarked that the voice of that great meeting would be heard in the House of Commons, which would have to decide whether the demand they were making in behalf of the people should be assented to. It should not be forgotten that in the House of Lords, on a motion made by Lord Thirlow in 1886, a resolution was passed by a majority of fourteen in favour of the Sunday opening of the national museums and galleries. (Cheers.) He thought it the duty of the people of the metropolis to take care that the House of Commons should be behind, but rather in front, of the House of Lords on this question. The resolution was seconded by Mr. Aeneas Smith. Mr. H. A. Jones, who was introduced as the author of "The Middleman," supported the motion, and having commented on what he termed the eccentric form of barbarism known as the English Sunday, went on to controvert the assertion often made that the opening of galleries and museums would entail in the long run the closing of theatres. On this subject he said he had written to many of the most eminent actors in England, and now held in his hand a bundle of letters in which Mr. Henry Irving, Mr. Bancroft, Mr. Hare, Mr. Willard, Mr. Forbes Robertson, Mr. G. Alexander, Mr. T. Thorne, and others in favour of the Sunday League movement, but pointing out that there was a wide difference between the opening of museums and the opening of theatres. Mr. Bancroft stated that the opening of theatres had been carried with but one dissentient voice. Mr. Pickersill moved: "That, having regard to the success which has attended Sunday opening of national museums and art galleries at Kew, Hampton Court, Greenwich, and Dublin, this meeting is of opinion that the same principle of Sunday opening should be given a fair trial in London, in accordance with the desire of the trustees of the British Museum, and that the requisite funds to accept the proposal made by a private gentleman to pay £3,000 for one year's trial."—This was put and carried, as also was a resolution proposed by Mr. Pictin, M.P., thanking the London County Council for its petition in favour of the Sunday opening movement, and directing that the several resolutions thus agreed to should be forwarded to the proper authorities, and that a petition should be presented to the House of Commons on the subject.

SCENE AT A BALL.

An incident occurred at Peth a day or two ago upon which reports have been made to the emperor. A Vienna correspondent says that a ball had been arranged in aid of destitute children, and the dance music was provided by two bands. One belonged to an infantry regiment, and the other was a gipsy band. The former accepted no pay, because it was a charity ball. Some time after midnight, when the Cardas had been twice repeated by the gipsies, the military band struck up a waltz, and suddenly a number of Hungarian youths surrounded the platform where the band was playing and made loud and angry demonstrations against the German and Bohemian fiddlers whose music they did not want. The noise grew louder every moment, and a second group made the gipsies play at the same time, and cries of "Out with the Germans!" were echoed on all sides, and finally some youths climbed up to the platform and wrenched a violin from the hands of the conductor of the band. The colonel, who was present, commanded the band to march out of the ball-room, and all the officers present followed.

A TERRIBLE DEATH.

A lad named Holmes, employed at the Heap Bridge Paper Mill, Heywood, has met with a fearful death. He was drawn between a press and roller, his whole body passing through a space of four inches, with the result that he was frightfully mangled. Death was instantaneous.

A TWICKENHAM MYSTERY.

Dr. Diplock has opened an inquest at the Jolly Blacksmiths, Twickenham, respecting the death of Henry Orsidge, aged 27 years, who died under very suspicious circumstances. John Graddidge, of 6, Hampton Grove, Twickenham, the brother, gave evidence of identification, and went on to say that he had not seen deceased for several years until about five weeks ago at his mother's house, Denmark Cottage, Denmark Road, Twickenham. Since he left the Army, a few weeks ago, deceased had lived with his mother until Sunday, the 2nd inst., when he went away suddenly. On Sunday, the 9th, he was brought home wrapped in a counterpane in a cab by two young women. He spoke to deceased, who, however, only put his hand on his stomach and shook his head. He sent for a doctor, and in the meanwhile attended to deceased. Before the medical man's arrival deceased said, "I'm blind," and shortly afterwards expired. The name and address of one of the young women was written on a piece of paper as follows: "Miss Bailey, 29, Vine-place, Hounslow." His wife informed him that deceased was not wearing his watch and chain when brought home, and the police were informed of the fact, and given the paper containing the name and address. Deceased's clothes were searched in the presence of the family and the police, and the pockets simply contained a piece of new ribbon, from which his medal had apparently been torn, and a pocket-knife. He had not a single coin, and his possession. The witness added that during the previous week he was constantly looking for his brother. His mother told him that on Wednesday, the 5th inst., he went home and took away a 45 note, which he changed at the Coach and Horses public-house, Heath-road, Twickenham, where he and the two young women who brought him home on Sunday had tea together. Dr. Read, of Heston, deposed that at about five o'clock on the afternoon of Friday, March 7th, he was called to see deceased at Penton's, 22, Vine-place, Hounslow. He found him suffering intense pain in the stomach, and with a very quick and irregular pulse. Mrs. Penton informed him that on that day the deceased had only eaten a little bit of steak. He ordered deceased brandy and poultices on his stomach, and made up some medicine (stimulant and spasmotic) for him. On Saturday deceased appeared to be better, but on the following day Police-sergeant Lines, of Teddington, informed him that he had expired. He had commenced a post mortem examination, and found there was inflammation in the stomach, on the lining of the bowel, and peritonitis. The inflammation was sufficiently serious to cause death. The Coroner: Can you tell me whether that would be from natural causes or some irritant?—The Doctor: I do not feel prepared to say. It might be from either.—The Coroner: Do you think it would require an analysis to settle the point?—Witness: I think it would be advisable.—The Coroner: I suppose it will be necessary for you to continue the post mortem?—Witness: Yes, I think so.—The inquiry was then adjourned.

Adjourned Inquest—Evidence of the Women.

At the resumed inquest on Friday, Dr. Read said death was due to gastric enteritis which might be the result of natural causes or of some irritant. An analysis was required. There was no sign of delirium tremens. Rose Penton said she was the wife of a labourer.—(When did you see this man (the deceased)? He came to me last Thursday week, and asked me if I could make it convenient for him to stay until Saturday, as he "intended to make Alice Bailey his wife on Saturday morning at Brentford." He said he was going to marry her by license.—By license? Yes, special license. (A laugh.)—Did the young woman stay with him? Yes, Alice Bailey. Jane Horton was there also. On Friday he was not very well, he complained of very great pains in his stomach and cramp. I went for doctor, and Dr. Read came. I asked the deceased if I should send for any of his friends, and he said, "No; I shall be better, and shall go home on Saturday after I have been to Brentford." On Saturday morning he seemed better. On Sunday morning he also seemed better. I went to the hospital to see my son, and when I came back at four o'clock the deceased was much worse. I asked to be taken in a cab to his mother's, and put him in a counterpane and blanket, and put him into a cab. I don't know who paid for the cab.—Did these two young women go with him? Yes. He didn't pay me anything for his lodgings, but he said he would come back, after he had been to Brentford, and give me a present.—Did you know anything of the young woman? My son "deceived" one of them twelve months ago. Since that time he has been away, and I have not heard anything of him, and cannot find him.—Did the deceased show any money while he was with you? Only 3s. on Friday, to pay Dr. Read.—Alice Bailey stated that she was a single woman, and lived at 22, Vine-place, Bell-road, Hounslow, with Mrs. Penton. Witness first met the deceased last Monday week at the Lion and Lamb public-house, Hounslow. On the following day she and Jane Horton met the deceased, but left him at eleven o'clock at night, and promised to see him the next day. On Wednesday week they were at the Coach and Horses, where they had tea. The deceased then changed a 45 note. Witness consented to the deceased going home with her, as

They were to be Married

by special license at Brentford on Saturday. On that day witness and Jane Horton took the deceased in a cab to his mother's in Denmark Road, but, as his mother was not at home, they took him to his brother's house. The deceased gave her half a sovereign to pay for the cab. He gave her no money "of any consequence" before that.—When did he speak to you about marrying you? On the Tuesday. I made no inquiry as to his circumstances, but he told me he was well-to-do.—From the Monday to the Thursday I had about 14s. or 15s. The deceased told me his name was George Bennett.—Where did he get it? He said he 45 notes?—He did not, he only one.—Did he reply to the jury, the witness said she could not give any idea as to what became of the deceased's money.—A jurymen said it was a remarkable thing that, although the witness was constantly in the man's company from the time he had the 45 notes, she could not say how he spent the money, which was a large sum.—The witness replied that she did not know where the money was, nor how it was spent.—A Juror: Well, it seems a very mysterious case.—After a somewhat protracted inquiry, the coroner said there must be an adjournment. In the meantime he would communicate with the Home Office as to the analysis.—The inquest was accordingly adjourned.

MR. GLADSTONE'S HEAD.

The London correspondent of the New York World writes:—I have heard from an authentic source a curious fact concerning Mr. Gladstone. One of his most remarkable physical characteristics is the size of his head. It is altogether exceptional. Recently a trusted follower of his was visiting at Hawarden, and one evening the conversation turned on phrenology. Needless to say, Gladstone had included this curious science in his limitless studies. "I am a bit of a phrenologist myself," said he, "and here is a circumstance that will surprise you. Within the last twenty years my head has grown considerably in size, and I can demonstrate it to you." The old man hid off to an adjoining room and returned with an old Court hat. He explained that it belonged to a uniform he had used early in his official career. Said Mr. Gladstone, placing the hat on his head, "this was large enough for me when I got it, but it is much too small for me now." And so it was—it did not go down on his head at all. He confessed that the alteration in the size of his head puzzled him, and declared he had never heard of a similar case.

THE GREAT EMIGRATION

FRAUDS.
Sentences of Hard Labour.
A Vienna telegram states that the court at Wadowice pronounced sentence upon the persons convicted of participation in the great emigration frauds. The counts of the indictment, under one or more of which the prisoners were found guilty, included obtaining money by fraudulent pretences, extortion, incitement to desertion from the Army, abuse of official authority, and bribing of gendarmes. The two principal offenders, Julius Lowenberg, and Landauer, were condemned to four and a half years' imprisonment with hard labour. Simon Hers to four years, Klausner and Julius Neumann to three years, Barber, Sadger, and Schoener to two years, Iwaniki and Wessersberg to eighteen months, and Ehrlich and Einhorn to one year's hard labour. The less seriously implicated prisoners were condemned to terms of imprisonment varying from one week to six months. The Public Prosecutor notified his resolve to appeal against the sentences, which he regarded as too light.

THE POLICE AND THE PUBLIC

At the Southwark Police Court, William and Robert Long, brothers, aged 29 and 27 respectively, one a wire-worker and the other a book-seller's assistant, were charged, the first with disorderly conduct in Balacava-road, Hermonday, and also with assaulting Police-constable Bridger, 294 M, and the second with attempting to rescue his brother from custody.—The constable stated that shortly before three o'clock he heard a disturbance at the corner of Lynton-road. On going to ascertain the cause he saw the two prisoners and three other men, who were making use of obscene language. He requested them to go away, and one of the prisoners said, "No, we shall not go away; we are gentlemen, and shall stay here as long as we like." The prisoner Robert crossed the road with another man, but William refused to move, and witness took him into custody. On doing so prisoner struck witness a violent blow in the mouth and ran away. Witness ran after him and took him to the station. On the way Robert came and attempted to pull his brother away, but another constable having arrived he was also taken into custody.—Police-constable 74 M gave corroborative evidence.—In answer to the magistrate, William said: We were on our way home from a supper, which caused us to be out so late. On arriving at the corner of the Lynton-road, where I have lived for several years, I stopped to bid one another good-night. We were making no noise, and using no bad language, when the constable (294) came up, and said, in a dictatorial way, "Now, then, move on here," and, without giving us a chance to do so, deliberately pushed my brother into the roadway. I said to him, "You ought to be ashamed of yourself to interfere with us. We are doing no harm." Upon that the constable said, "If I were in plain clothes I would give you a good—bing," and then gave me a push. I returned the blow, and then they took me to the station, and my brother, who was with me, was taken to the station, and when he got inside they charged him.—Robert Long made a similar statement. He denied emphatically that he made any attempt to rescue his brother. He went to the station to give his name to the inspector as a witness. When he went in the constable (294) thrust him violently into the dock and charged him.—In support of these statements the prisoners called a witness named Howe, who said he was with the prisoners at the supper, and was about to part from them when the constables came and interfered without any reasonable cause, as they were making no noise nor using any bad language whatever.—Mr. Slade said the prisoners having been to a supper, they were probably not so quiet as they ought to be at three o'clock in the morning. If they had any complaint against the police they should have gone to the station and reported the matter to the inspector, instead of assaulting them. It was not, however, a serious assault, but William would have to pay 10s., or seven days, and Robert would be bound over in 45s to keep the peace for three months.

A HORRIBLE SUPERSTITION.

A very lurid light has just been thrown upon the life and superstitions of the Russian peasantry by the perpetration of a gruesome crime in the name of what they take to be Christianity. A rich popular farmer died rather suddenly in the village of Soroofsky. He had been seen in the enjoyment of excellent health on Thursday, and was found dead in his bed on Friday morning. He was prayed for and duly "waked," after which he was carried to the grave, almost all the inhabitants of the village, inclusive of the priest, following him to the churchyard. Just as the body was being lowered into the lid, which had been fastened rather loosely, the lid, which was nailed, began to rise up slowly and detach itself from the coffin, to the indescribable horror of the friends and mourners of the deceased. Then the dead man was seen in his white shroud stretching his arms upwards and sitting up. At this sight the gravediggers let go the cords, and, along with the bystanders, fled in terror from the spot. The supposed corpse then arose, scrambled out of the grave, and, shivering from the cold (the mercury was two degrees below zero), made for the village as fast as his legs could carry him. But the villagers had barred and bolted themselves in against the "wizard," and no one made answer to the appeals he made, with chattering teeth, to be admitted; and so, blue, breathless, trembling, he ran from hut to hut like a rat in a burning room, seeking some escape from death. At last fortune seemed to favour him, and he chanced on a hut the inmate of which was an old woman who had not been to the funeral, and knowing nothing of his resurrection, had left her door barred. He opened and entered, and, going up to the stove, he assumed as he would get inside it, if he could. Meanwhile, the peasants gathered together, armed themselves with poles and stakes of aspen wood, the only effectual weapons in a fight with a "wizard," and surrounded the cabin. A few of those whose superstition was modified by faith in the merits of modern improvements also took guns and pistols with them, and the door being opened the attack of these Christians against this "devil's ally" began. The "wizard" was slain by a bullet in the back, and his body was thrown into a bog. Cases of this kind are of not unfrequent occurrence in Russia. The press is taking the matter up, but is not sanguine of attaining permanently satisfactory results, which cannot possibly be achieved until a fair and impartial trial shall be given to education.

THE CHARGE AGAINST A BRADFORD OFFICIAL.

Naylor, a prominent official of the Bradford Corporation, against whom a nurse in his employ, named Bond, preferred a charge last August, and who has since been hiding in America, surrendered to take his trial on Friday. It will be remembered that a month ago the girl caused a sensation by confessing the charge was concocted to extort money.—Naylor was committed for trial to the Leeds Assizes, no fresh evidence being taken.

FATAL COLLISION IN THE BRISTOL CHANNEL.

On the arrival at Barry on Thursday of the steamer Grantrully, of West Hartlepool, the captain reported that when off Nerosce Head, in the Bristol Channel, on Wednesday evening, he ran down a trawler. She sank in about a minute, and although he at once put off a boat none of the crew could be seen. The loss of life would probably be five or six. A lifebuoy was picked up with "Howe Bay" painted on it.

EXTRAORDINARY FOSSIL SKELETON.

The discovery is reported of a supposed fossil of unusually large dimensions at Raupo Bay, near Little Akaroa, on Banks Peninsula, New Zealand. Mr. M'Hale, a settler, on whose property it is, found the remains some five years ago, and has since spent some considerable time and labour in unearthing portions of the supposed skeleton. It is said to extend some fifteen chains, or 900 ft. in length, and is about 100 ft. above the sea level. The clays has been dug up in seven or eight places, and to show the spine and column. The vertebrae are said to be shaped like a boat, increasing more or less in size towards the skull. The side of what is supposed to be the skull has been uncovered, and an eye-hole is apparent. The side is oblong, and it is said to be like that which the iguanodon is said to have possessed. Some of the detached portions of the remains are said to be unmistakable bone and others cannot be distinguished from petrified clay. Three pieces from what Mr. M'Hale considers the fin or paddle of the reptile. These have a covering of volcanic rock.

A DISTRESSING STORY.

A woman of 30, whose grey hair gave her the appearance of being older, and who stated that her father—now deceased—was a solicitor and coroner in the West of England, asked Mr. D'Eyncourt for advice at the Westminster Police Court. She stated that she had seven children. When she was an inexperienced girl of 17, this man was introduced to her in the capacity of a money-lender to enable her to anticipate a testamentary benefit. She alleged that her health had been wrecked by him, and reminded his worship that last July, when ill and destitute, she was remanded several times from that court on a charge of robbing furnished apartments, and then discharged, she asserting that a daughter of the man who ruined and deserted her was the thief. As the allowance she could obtain from him when he finally left her was a sum of £30 and 10s. weekly for two children living, one being 7 and the other 8 years of age, she complained that from this a large sum of money had been deducted, made deductions, so that when £2 was due only £1 was sent.—Mr. D'Eyncourt told her that it was a matter he could not interfere with, and that her remedy would be in the county court.

ALLEGED ATTEMPTED BLACKMAILING.

At the Marylebone Police Court, John Edward Peyton, 55, a reporter, living at Greenhill Park, Willesden, was charged before Mr. De Rutzen, on remand, with attempting to obtain 10s. by means of threats from Mr. William Seaman, a builder, of 132, Ashmore-road, on the 23rd ult.; also with attempting to obtain 10s. from Alfred Holt, a greengrocer, of Herries-street, Queen's Park.—The evidence was that the prosecutors were summoned before the court by the Metropolitan Police Sessions for offences under the Weights and Measures Act. Several days after the prisoner called on them and represented that he reported for several local newspapers, and if they paid him a fee he would exclude their names from the list he was going to supply for publication, and if the fee was not paid some of the papers would be sure to put the names in. Mr. Seaman called a constable and gave the prisoner into custody.—In giving his decision, Mr. De Rutzen considered the newspaper editors and proprietors and the public were indebted to the prosecutors for having brought the case before the court, for he was quite sure editors would be anxious to employ men who had the means of obtaining special information of the sort in question, and then used it for the means of levying blackmail. The question he had to determine was whether the threat which the prisoner had used was such a threat at common law or under the statutes as would justify him in sending the accused for trial. That was best answered by the words of Lord Ellenborough, who said that to obtain money under a threat of any kind, or to attempt to do it, was a crime, and that the threat must be of such a nature as would be calculated to unsettle the mind of a reasonably strong man. He considered the prosecutors in this case were men whose minds were strong enough not to be overcome by what the prisoner had said, and therefore he discharged Peyton. He hoped that such conduct would not in the future be resorted to.

SOUTH-WEST LONDON POLYTECHNIC.

An influential meeting in support of the South-west London Polytechnic Institute was held at the Palace, under the presidency of the Bishop of London. A sum of £50,000 was given by the Charity Commissioners on condition of another similar sum being raised. A suitable site, value £10,000, was given at Chelsea by Earl Cadogan, and £32,000 has been raised, leaving £8,000 still to be contributed. It is proposed that the institute will provide technical and commercial schools and science and art classes, a gymnasium, swimming bath, lecture and reading-rooms, as well as day schools and evening classes for boys and girls on leaving elementary schools. A sub-committee has been appointed for the consideration of plans of building, which are to provide accommodation for instruction in masonry, plumbing, electricity, carpentering, and chemistry. A library will not be included, as a portion of the site has been disposed of to the commissioners of the Chelsea Free Libraries, whose new buildings will thus join the institution and be utilised by its members.

A FRENCH RIP VAN WINKLE.

An amusing case has been heard in one of the Paris police courts. A man rejoicing in the name of Gustave Cesar Mary had been found in a state of intoxication, and the judge, after reminding him that he had already been condemned forty-seven times for the same offence, asked what he had to say by way of excuse. He drank to console himself, answered the prisoner. "For what?" inquired the magistrate. "For his death," was the reply, uttered in the most solemn manner. Hereupon the judge warned Mary not to try any tricks on the court, but he gravely drew a document from his pocket and handed it to the magistrate. It was a paper setting forth in due form that he had been killed in the fighting near Forbach in August, 1870. Requested to explain this extraordinary adventure, Mary related that he had been severely wounded, examined, and left for dead.—The Prussians, however, afterwards picked him up and tended him. When the war was over he returned home, and the people told him, among other news, that "Cesar Mary was dead." By no means, he replied, as he was there in the flesh, but some of the neighbours argued that Mary must really have given up the ghost, as his death had been entered on the parish register. Curious to ascertain whether this was a fact, he examined the register, and found his name inscribed therein, with the date of his death. When he came to Paris he wrote home for the copy which he had just had the honour of submitting to the judge. Mary went on to remark that when a man had been killed for his country he might well be allowed to indulge in a glass now and then, and he wound up by begging the court not to be hard on a poor mortal who was dead. There was more laughter, which was promptly hushed, and then Mary was sentenced to eight days' imprisonment, in spite of his "acts of decency" and all the privileges to which it entitled him—at least in his own estimation. This, by the way, is not the first case of the sort that has occurred, as in the confusion of the battlefield wounded soldiers were sometimes believed to be dead by their own fellow-countrymen, and were afterwards restored to health by the Germans who had taken possession of the ground.

BURGLARY AT HAMMERSMITH.

George Gaston and William Dean, both rough-looking young men, living at the same address in Greyhound-road, Fulham, were placed in the dock at the West London Police Court on Thursday, charged with committing a burglary and robbery at the house of Mr. George Frederick Bowden, a water-rate collector, residing at 116, The Grove, Hammersmith.—It appeared that the prosecutor and his wife retired to rest about twelve o'clock on Wednesday night, after fastening the doors. At a quarter past four o'clock next morning the prosecutor was disturbed by the barking of one of the dogs, and feeling assured that something had happened, he went downstairs, followed by his wife. They found the sitting-room in confusion, with books removed from the shelves, and a box, with a key apparently ready to be carried off, with a box, it was too much trouble. (Laughter.)—Mrs. Bowden said she found the doors forced and the ladder window looking into the yard open. There was sufficient room for a man to get through the window.—Inspector Fry said that at half-past four o'clock that morning he was on duty at Brook Green, when he heard cries of "Police," proceeding from the back of houses in The Grove. He went in that direction, and saw the prisoners running in a garden towards Shepherd's Bush-road. He ran after them, and saw them into custody. He took them to the Grove, when Gaston said, "We won't give you any trouble; that is the house (pointing to No. 110). We got in at the back."—Police-constable 576 T said he never lost sight of the prisoner, and apprehended Dean. He found upon him a handkerchief, a spoon, and a fucose case. Gaston had some false teeth in his possession, two small silver spoons, and a silk scarf.—The prosecutor identified the articles found in the possession of the prisoners. He said the scarf and teeth, which belonged to his father, were taken from the bookcase, and the spoons from the tea-caddy in the kitchen.—The prisoner Gaston pleaded guilty.—There were former convictions, but Mr. Curtis Bennett said they could be proved at the sessions.—The prisoners were committed for trial.

"IN THE SWIM."

BY A CITY SHARK.

As I expected would prove the case, the fortnightly settlement revealed the fact that the "bears" have been overdoing their work in some of the leading departments. This uneasiness is most manifest in English rails, which show a large overvalued account and a consequent deficiency of stock. Now, therefore, it is a good time to buy these high-class securities, either for speculation or investment. There may be sharp fluctuations for another week or two, as the "bears" are sure to die hard after the present time they have been having lately. But the surroundings of the situation are again as happy, and unless some untoward event happens, such as a financial smash-up in South America, or a gold drain of abnormal proportions, they will be bound to get the worst of the deal. It may be said, no doubt, that the increased cost of labour and of materials will tell heavily against the present half-year's railway dividends. That is true enough, but I anticipate such an augmentation of traffic receipts as will leave a handsome margin of profit after deducting the growth of working expenses. Great Western, Midland, and Great Eastern, which are the most promising "bull" stocks, which Metropolitan should be kept in mind by those who are content to wait a bit for a good haul. Although it is against my custom to dabble in the mining market, I will make an exception once in a way by recommending Balaghat shares. But they should be bought right out, not on the "cover" or any other system. American rails are playing the same old seesaw game, with no profit to any one but those who work the wires at New York. All the time the investor might do worse than put some of his loose cash into Lake Superior and Louisville. It would yield a high rate of interest than is obtainable in English rails, while at any moment the capital value might be substantially increased by the long-expected "boom." Some of my readers have, I find, burdened themselves with Cedula, and having got into a mess, they naturally turn to their guide, philosopher, and friend to help them out. To sell or hold—that is the question they ask. Well, were I in the same predicament, I should be disposed to hang on for a bit longer on the chance of the gold premium at Buenos Ayres. The price of gold is running high, and will rise much higher than the present figure, and as that is largely due to speculative operations, the chances are in favour of a strong reaction. Of course, I do not recommend any one to buy Cedula, but those who are already in and who cannot get out without heavy loss had better, I think, toe the line and stand to it, come what come will.

MONEY MARKET.

CITY, Saturday.

Scarcely any business was done in the Stock Exchange to-day. The Funds were unchanged. Foreign Government Securities continued good. Home Railways were dull. American Railways were favourably inclined. Canadian Lines were quiet; Foreign Railways steady; Mining Shares somewhat flat. Latest quotations:—Consols, 97½; ditto account, 97½; Two-and-a-half per Cent, 94½.

FOREIGN PRICES.

Argentina, 1886, 97, 5; Chilean, 1886, 102, 5; Ecuadorian Preference, 105, 5; Ditto United, 94, 5; Ditto Daira Sanieh, 94, 5; Ditto Daira Sanieh, 94, 5; French 3 per Cent, 27½, 5; Hungarian 4 per Cent, 181, 5; Italian 5 per Cent, 104, 5; Mexican 5 per Cent, 1886, 95, 5; Paraguay Bonds, 1880, 42, 4.

BRITISH RAILWAYS.

Metropolitan, 75, 5; Ditto 2nd, 100, 5; Great Eastern, 100, 5; Great Northern, 100, 5; Great Western, 100, 5; London & North Western, 100, 5; Midland, 100, 5; North British, 100, 5; North Eastern, 100, 5; North Staffordshire, 100, 5; North Western, 100, 5; South Eastern, 100, 5; South Western, 100, 5; Taff Vale, 100, 5; York & North Yorkshire, 100, 5.

UNITED STATES RAILWAYS.

Central Pacific, 33, 5; Chicago & North Western, 37, 5; Great Northern, 100, 5; Illinois Central, 117, 5; Louisville & Nashville, 65, 5; Lake Shore, 104, 5; Missouri & Texas, 105, 11; New York Central, 111, 5; Ditto 2nd, 100, 5; Ditto 3rd, 100, 5; Ditto 4th, 100, 5; Ditto 5th, 100, 5; Ditto 6th, 100, 5; Ditto 7th, 100, 5; Ditto 8th, 100, 5; Ditto 9th, 100, 5; Ditto 10th, 100, 5.

OTHER AMERICAN RAILWAYS.

Canadian Pacific, 75, 5; Great Trunk, 100, 5; Ditto 2nd, 100, 5; Ditto 3rd, 100, 5; Ditto 4th, 100, 5; Ditto 5th, 100, 5; Ditto 6th, 100, 5; Ditto 7th, 100, 5; Ditto 8th, 100, 5; Ditto 9th, 100, 5; Ditto 10th, 100, 5.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Alloppo, Ordinary, 7½; Barret's Brewery, 5; Broya and Malt, 18, 25; Guinness Ordinary, 34½; Hotchkiss, 5½; New Explosives, 38; Spratt's Patent, 7½.

The Eiffel Tower is to be re-opened to the public for the season on the 30th of March. The price for ascending to the top will be four francs on week days and two francs on Sundays. By the voting of the Newcastle and Gateshead engineers it was decided by a majority of about 3,000 to accept the master's terms. The result from Sunderland and other places are not yet known. Printed and Published by ABRAHAM GERRARD LARSEN for the Proprietors, at their Office, Milford-lane, Strand, in the Parish of St. Clement, London, in the County of Middlesex, on March 16th, 1890.